

THE Hongkong Weekly Press AND China Overland Trade Report.

VOL. EXII.]

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No. 23

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BIRTHS.

On 13th November, at Hankow, the wife of HARRY E. GIBSON, of a son.

On 17th November, at Santu, the wife of E. G. LEBAS, of a daughter.

On 18th November, at Shanghai, the wife of FRANK GRAY, of a son.

On 20th November, at Shanghai, to Mr. and Mrs. C. W. MAD, a daughter.

On 23rd November, at Shanghai, the wife of ARTHUR STANLEY, of a son.

On 23rd November, at Shanghai, the wife of FLEMING JAMES, of a daughter.

On 25th November, at Shanghai, the wife of EUG. HYNDMAN, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

On 8th November, at Tientsin, JHN AYWARD CHURCHILL to EDITH FLORA COOPER.

On 23rd November, at Yokohama, HENRY HARIS READ, of Shanghai, to MABEL AGNES KIRKELL, of Yokohama.

On 24th November, at Shanghai, KRISTIAN KROGH JOHNSEN and CATHARINE MARGARET GOODE.

On 25th November, at Shanghai, JOHN COCK to ANNIE, only daughter of the late R. H. WIGTON, Esq., of Shanghai.

On 7th November, at St. John's Cathedral, Hongkong by the Rev. J. H. France, M.A., DOROTHY HAET, eldest daughter of Dr. G. H. HAET, Birmingham, to JAMES D. DANBY, second son of WM. DANBY, Esq., Hongkong.

DEATHS.

On 28th October, at Chefoo, Miss LISLE BAINBRIDGE.

On 21st November, at Hankow, H. VEHLBER.

On 22nd November, at Nagasaki, FREDERICK CASTLE McCALLUM, youngest son of the late Major H. A. McCALLUM, R.M.L.I., in his 40th year.

Hongkong Weekly Press.

HONGKONG OFFICE: 10A, DES VŒUX ROAD CL.
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ARRIVAL OF MAIIS.

The French Mail of October 27th arrived per the s.s. Armand Behic, on Thursday the 30th inst., and the English Mail of November 3rd is due to arrive, per the s.s. Chusan, sometime to-day.

FAR EASTERN NEWS.

Tientsin has instituted a Debating Society for both ladies and gentlemen.

The plague totals as recorded on Nov. 25 remain at 298 cases and 28 deaths.

Coolies are being recruited in Hupeh and Hunan for railway work in Annam.

Some Presbyterian missionaries in the Philippines have just imported from America a most luxurious motor launch.

Messrs. Hughes and Hough offered the steamer *Macquarie*, for sale on Nov. 29 at Yantai, but there was only a small attendance and the vessel was bought in at \$74,000.

The *Nanshangpao* complains of the brusque way in which foreigners are apt to write of Chinese, even those of high rank, by omitting to give them the plainest of courtesy titles.

Viceroy Chang Chih tung has nearly completed a volume defending his action in the matter of buying back the Canton-Hankow railway concession by the aid of a British loan.

A Japanese paper has been suspended for criticising the clan system which still prevails in Government administration. If this were possible in England, there would be few papers left.

The Japanese steamer, the *America Maru* of the Toyo Kis-n Kaisha line, made her reappearance in the harbour yesterday after a lengthy absence during which she served as an auxiliary cruiser in the war just ended.

Baron Komura, when he was received in audience by the Empress Dowager and the Emperor on the 16th instant, was allowed to enter the Palace by the State gate, considered an unprecedented honour to a foreign official.

A Chinese burglar at Shanghai is beginning a nine months' sentence of imprisonment for an odd theft. He took from the house of the American Consul a lady's fur boa, worth \$200, cut it into short lengths, and hawked the pieces round for sale.

Viceroy and Governors are to be further invested with the title of Administrator of Mines, which, says the *Nanshangpao*, will place them in full control of the mineral wealth in their jurisdiction and "make them responsible for the preservation of China's gold and silver and other mines from the hands of any and all outsiders."

The South Burma Tin Mines, Limited, has been registered with a capital of £30,000 in £1 shares. Object, to adopt an agreement between J. Eglinton and F. Jackson to acquire and hold any mines, mining, water, or other rights, privileges, and concessions in Burmah, the Straits Settlements, the Federated Malay States, or elsewhere in the Malay Peninsula or other part of Asia.

Great activity is being displayed in the opening up of French Indo-China. In 1898 the Colony was authorised to raise a sum of £8,000,000 for new railways, and of this sum £4,800,000 has already been used. A ministerial decree sanctions the borrowing of the remaining £3,200,000. M. Clementel, Minister of the Colonies, states that the revenues of the Colony are in a flourishing condition, and can easily bear this additional test of their soundness. There is a substantial reserve fund, and the yearly Budget always shows a balance on the right side.

On the 27th November at the offices of the Public Works Department, Sai Kung Farm Lot No. 2, in the New Territory, was let by public auction sale. The lease is for a term of 75 years, with the option of renewal at a Crown rent to be fixed for one further term of 75 years, if competent for the Colonial Government so to make it. The annual Crown rental of the Lot, which has an area of about 23.50 acres, is \$24. Bidding started at the upset price, \$94, and rose rapidly till the amount of \$2,500 was reached. At this price the Lot was sold to Mr. C. H. Rennie, for the Hongkong Milling Company.

The *Straits Times* of Nov. 18 says:—The Government have refused to pay the Tanjong Pagar Dock Co. the 24 per cent. that they claimed on their last half-year's working. Instead of 24 per cent. they offer 6 per cent., claiming that the balance should be appropriated to depreciation, reserve and carry forward. At the meeting of shareholders to-day it was agreed that the matter should go before the Arbitration Court but there was an expression of opinion by Mr. Bradell that the case should be fought out in the Law Courts. Incidentally to this spoiling of the Egyptians, it may be mentioned that Messrs. Coode, Son & Matthews have been appointed Consulting Engineers to the Tanjong Pagar Dock Board.

Capt. Grassi of the Italian Navy is at present in Shanghai, in connection with an extensive Chinese Government order for the installation of wireless telegraphy. The *N.D. Daily News* says:—Experiments have been made, to test the value of Chinese assistance, between the Italian cruiser *Marco Polo* and the Chinese cruiser *Haishin* both now lying in the harbour. These have been completely successful. The overland scheme as at present arranged is to connect up a triangle of which Peking, Paoting-fu and Chinwangtiao will be the apexes. Capt. Grassi has had previous experience of China, having been responsible for the installation between the Italian Legation at Peking and the Consulate at Tientsin some two years ago. On the dangerous China coast the useful possibilities before wireless telegraphy would seem to have no limit, and we can only hope to see them put into speedy and more general operation.

Disturbances of a serious character occurred in Shizuoka prefecture, Japan, about the middle of this month. It was announced that a meeting was to be held at Ejiri in opposition to certain works now in progress in connection with the river Tomoya. About ten thousand people from the villages along the river assembled at Ejiri with the object of breaking up the meeting, which was in consequence abandoned. The mob then made its way to Udomura, a village near the town, and destroyed the houses of two leaders of the opposing party. There were persons in the crowd who had possession of firearms, and among the mob were to be seen men on horseback, apparently the leaders of this furious little rising. As soon as possible information was conveyed to the Shizuoka police, and an inspector and 44 men hurried to the scene. They were too late, however, as the mob quickly dispersed, "having accomplished its object." Four or five arrests were made. The cause of the outbreak is not stated beyond the fact that some work is being undertaken in the river. It is perhaps because this work will benefit one village to the detriment of another that the feud has arisen.

MILITARY MATTERS.

(*Daily Press* 27th November).

On the 23rd instant we reproduced from the *Daily Chronicle* an article that drew attention publicly to the conditions of life of the soldier, conditions for which the non-military man is quite at a loss to see the necessity, more especially as on paper estimates for the upkeep of the British army present so formidable a figure. Of course our contemporary refers only to the extraordinary management of the War Office which apparently attempts to save the public purse at the expense of the Private's pocket by filching from TOMMY's victuals, housing him and giving him the accommodation which cattle would shy at; and generally treating him in a manner that excites the gravest indignation in the minds of the tax payers who have fondly imagined that the English soldier is individually an expensive, if necessary, public servant. It has been pointed out before in different branches of the Press, both civilian and military, that the inefficient administration of the money voted for military services requires not only criticism but serious public enquiry. It might be imagined that those administrators at the War Office who pretend to believe that a soldier's socks and underclothing will last seven years without replenishment at home or abroad; that boots will stand hard marching without repair for two years; that service coal, though of the cheapest, will burn twice as long as that used by civilians; that a soldier if supplied with $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. of meat and bone will cheerfully masticate and digest the bone as well as the meat; that threepence a day is sufficient to supply vegetables, salt, pepper, mustard, butter, tea, sugar and milk or any extras to eke out the rations of bread and meat; that it is unnecessary to provide plates, cups, saucers or dishes for men, civilised men, to eat and drink out of; that blankets, though warm and useful to sleep under, are equally suitable for carrying boiled potatoes or roast meat in, can make efficient floorcarpets, and are to be used as mats to wipe the soldier's boots on; that it is fair to promise a man one thing before enlistment and to feel a pride in cheating him from the moment he enlists;—I repeat, it might be imagined that such administrators were merely parsimonious, saving and consequently valuable public servants. That this is not the case is evident from the fact that what the public supply in the way of Army funds is expended somehow and somewhere, the how and where remaining more or less of a mystery to the nation as a whole. It is just possible that the process of disposing of Government Stores and auditing of South African accounts may be a matter of frequent occurrence.

The method of living and housing the officers of the army appears to us to be almost as singular as that adopted in the case of the men. The Officer must, when we consider the pay of the junior ranks, at all events, be drawn from the monied classes accustomed to a good house and accommodation for living. Where accommodation is provided for a gentleman joining the commissioned ranks we find one small room provided, probably at the top of a flight of stone stairs, not in any way comparable with a workhouse. This room nowadays is thoughtfully provided by the War Office with a collection of furniture, for which an officer has to pay, and which the said officer would scarcely have the effrontery at home to supply for use by his servants. The so-called pay of the officer is not even sufficient to keep him in food

and mess subscriptions, while he has to provide servant, livery, weapons, uniform books for instruction and every actual necessary of life from his private purse. When questions are from time to time asked in Parliament as to the scandalous treatment of officers, if answered at all, instances of very senior ranks are produced which give for the Public an idea that, taken altogether, the officer is a very expensive fellow. The same principle of argument has often been applied to the salaries of the clergy in the Church of England, Bishops being held up as examples of the waste of ecclesiastical funds. As has been published lately by the BISHOP OF LONDON, even these princely salaries are not sufficient to cope with the expenses and responsibilities of the position. To those intimately acquainted with what is expected from the higher officers of the Army the same idea occurs at once. Taking the Army from the highest commissioned ranks to the lowest private, the treatment, management and administration is a scandal to a civilised country; the results, considering the enormous amount of money expended upon it, are disappointing and inadequate, and the conclusion must be come to, in the light of recent disclosures as to the life in the Army itself, that the sooner independent inquiry is made into the conduct of those responsible for so disgraceful a state of affairs the better, more especially into the financial administration which apparently has to, notwithstanding the enormous funds supplied, stoop to a system of deceit and pilfering from the soldiers themselves to make the public money go round. Whatever the War Office may think and whatever its methods of expressing its beliefs by its treatment of the Army, the public will never be led to tolerate, now the facts are gradually leaking out, the treating of those so frequently described as 'Gentlemen in Khaki' as pigs in their life off parade; neither will it fail eventually to find out how money especially granted for the establishment of a good and efficient Army fritters away with no apparent result.

THE TRADE MARKS REGULATIONS.

(*Daily Press*, 27th November).

A little more than twelve months ago, the Chinese Government, in fulfilment of one of the obligations of the MACKAY Treaty, brought into operation some Experimental Regulations for the Registration of Trade Marks in China, announcing at the same time that the Regulations would be subject to revision when the promised Code governing the registration of Trade Marks is compiled. Presumably the Chinese Board of Commerce and the foreign firms who have had their trade marks registered under these Regulations are now in a position to state whether they afford that protection to British trade marks against "infringement, imitation or colourable imitation" by Chinese subjects which the Government of China by the terms of the MACKAY Treaty expressly undertook to afford. We are not aware that any public statement has yet been made on the subject, but we have noted reports in the Northern Chinese papers that some of the Ambassadors at Peking have from time to time lodged objections to the Regulations, which it may be remarked appear to be very loosely drawn up and likely to lead to endless disputes. Now it is reported that the Ministers, with the exception of the representatives of Russia and Japan, intend to present an Identical

Note of refusal to recognise the Regulations on the ground that the provisions contained therein for the hearing of suits relating to the infringement of trade marks directly conflict with the existing magisterial powers of the Consuls. As these Regulations were published nearly two years ago, it seems to have taken the Legations a long time to discover this very patent defect in them. The Regulations provide for a "joint investigation and trial" by a Consul and Chinese Magistrate when a foreign and a Chinese subject are parties to the suit, and apart from the fact that this conflicts with the magisterial powers of the Consuls, the Regulations contain no provision for deciding the dispute in the very likely event of the "Mixed Court" being unable to agree. It is obvious to any one who peruses these Regulations that they will need considerable revision before they are incorporated in the promised Code.

THE FAILURE OF THE LUHAN RAILWAY BRIDGE.

(*Daily Press* 28th November).

It is now, of course, an open secret that a serious failure has occurred in the great bridge which carries the Luhan Railway to Kaifung. The story of the line is not an altogether pleasant one; nominally a Belgian undertaking, it was from the beginning perfectly understood to be a Russian political scheme; and its real intention was to facilitate communication from the north with central China, so that when the time came for absorption Russia should find no obstacle in the way of her successful advance to Peking and the rich Yangtse valley. It is true that as time went on, and the great aim of Russia seemed continually further and further from any hope of accomplishment, the construction of the line assumed a more thoroughly commercial aspect, and lately this last has been the guiding principle throughout; the first idea of a military and strategic line has, however, left its traces in the laying out and building of the line, and the first requirement has been not so much efficiency as economy. Notoriously the Yellow River is a byword for instability; from its wandering and unsettled character it had long ages ago acquired the appellation of "China's Sorrow," and unstable as is the whole of its lower course (that portion where, after passing the city of Mangtsin, it enters on the plain of Honan), it has ever borne the worst character of all. Even before the days of authentic history the ancient Yu Kung describes this country as a district of swamps and marshes. The surface soil is the finest of sand, so fine as to be almost impalpable—the wear and tear of the loess deposits of Shensi and Kansuh,—and the subsoil is almost equally treacherous—so that the task of placing a bridge over the wayward river at any portion of its lower course was one which might have appalled the most experienced of engineers. Exigencies, both political and commercial, called for its construction at this spot, so that the task before the engineer was to carry one of the longest and most important bridges in Asia over a Serbonian Bog, without any known or discoverable bottom. Unfortunately the method selected was only suitable for a light railway, while already the requirements of the traffic point out that an extremely heavy and bulky goods traffic has to be provided for: not only, in fact have mistakes been made as to the character of the available foundations, but the requirements of the traffic to be carried on has been entirely misjudged. The method

adopted finally has been that of screw-piles, a method unsatisfactory at best, and only practicable where there is the possibility of arriving at a sufficiently permanent and unyielding subsoil, which in this case has certainly not been attained. In this respect the alluvial plains of China have acquired an evil reputation, and like difficulties have been met with and, it is right to add, surmounted on the more northern portions of the line in the province of Pechili. It is true that by almost superhuman efforts a shift was made to pass over the opening train, but our advices go to show that subsequently traffic over the bridge has had to be suspended. We have no desire to exaggerate the importance of the failure, nor to point a finger of scorn at the labours of those entrusted with the task, at all times an anxious one, of having to carry a line of railway over what is practically a floating bog;—the more especially as the conditions required, or seemed to require, the exercise of the utmost economy. Had the inception of the line a clearer record, the question of a starve-all economy would not have entered at all into discussion by its promoters. Even as it is, in the eyes of a particularly suspicious people like the Chinese, the failure is likely to cast a reflection not easily removed on Western engineering in general. The failure, under not altogether dissimilar conditions, of the foundations of the Nile Barrage near Cairo, being carried out by continental engineers, for many years kept back all engineering progress in Egypt; and it was only last year that the magnificent undertaking of the Assouan Dam, and the partial restoration of the Barrage, showed how, under clearer conditions, the industrial resources of the state could at one stroke be almost doubled.

In apportioning the blame it must not, however, be forgotten that China at the time the concession of the line was granted had, with her eyes open, placed herself unreservedly in the hands of Russia, who insisted on the work with all its concomitant understandings being placed in the hands of her nominees, the Belgian Syndicate; who had, moreover, in addition to building the line to Russia's requirements, to do all the financing.

THE FATE OF MANCHURIA.

(*Daily Press*, 29th November.)

Although there is every reason to believe that the terms which have been agreed to between Japan and Russia will secure peace for many years to come, there is still, in many quarters, a feeling of doubt with reference to the course of events in Manchuria. The maintenance of the integrity of China is naturally the salient feature in the policy which is considered necessary for the preservation of peace. This, however, must obviously depend very largely upon the action of China herself, and unfortunately her past conduct does not offer much encouragement for the future. One of the chief causes of the late war was the weakness of China, and her yielding policy as regards Russia, and, now that that province is restored to her, the question arises whether she will take proper steps to maintain her position; or, as time wears on, may not again leave an opening for Russian aggression. The lesson, however, which she must have learnt from the war, ought to make her alive to the necessity of maintaining her position in the Province which good fortune has restored to her. If left to herself, there is too much reason to fear that she would before long allow the old state of

affairs to recur, and by vacillating action, leave the door open to renewed trouble such as that which brought about the war. Against this, however, there is one feature which leaves room to conclude that the old difficulty will not recur. Japan having once vindicated China's position, and saved her from threatened appropriation of her territory, will have every right to insist upon her taking measures to prevent the old state of affairs again arising; and, from all that can be gathered, there is little doubt that Japan will do so. For some time past China has been employing Japanese instructors in military matters; and the Japanese, who are nothing if not practical, have no doubt had in view the direction in which it would be necessary for China to make use of such improvements in the first instance. It is probable, therefore, that China will be able to have sufficient force in Manchuria, first to preserve the peace against roving bands which have always been a trouble there, and secondly to safeguard the country in a way which has been hitherto impossible against hostile invasion. It is to be hoped that this result will be brought about, otherwise there will, of course, be room to fear that in process of time the Chinese may relax their vigilance and that, notwithstanding all that has taken place, Russia may be allowed to again advance towards Chinese borders. There is unfortunately so much room to distrust the Chinese in this direction that it is not surprising that those who look with most favour upon the terms secured by the Treaty of Portsmouth, still feel some misgivings on this score, and look forward with excusable anxiety to the time when both Russia and Japan are to finally vacate Manchuria. The period fixed is 18 months—a long interval—during which much may happen. The persistence of Russia in her policy of advance is known to be such that grave fears may be entertained whether she may not be yet tempted to interfere with China, the recent Treaty notwithstanding. Her being pledged to respect China's integrity will be of little value in the absence of some means either moral or physical to induce her to adhere to the understanding. If minded to push on towards China, plausible excuses might readily be found. A safeguard against this will, however, no doubt, be found by Japan.

In an article which appeared on the question in the *Morning Post*, evidently written by someone well acquainted with the subject, the writer, after pointing out that the Chinese might, if they so desired, offer formidable opposition, goes on to observe:—

"It is a reasonable assumption that before restoring Manchuria to China Japan will take every precaution to ensure the safety of its frontiers; will organise, discipline, and reinvigorate the Chinese forces; and will in time convert them into a formidable instrument of defence. That the Chinese can fight was sufficiently proved during the Tai Ping rebellion; that they are willing to receive from Japan the training, and are able to receive from her the vital touch that differentiates an Army from a mob, seems established by all that is known of the discipline, equipment, and morale of General Ma's Army and that Peking will seek to flood Manchuria with colonists, and will henceforward zealously guard the province that contains the ancestral tombs of the reigning house of China, is not merely probable but almost, if not quite, certain."

Of course what was done during the Tai Ping rebellion, where one set of Chinese fought against another, is no guarantee that the Chinese could make headway against a European Power; but that in any such contest they would be largely assisted, both morally and physically, by the Japanese there can be no doubt—if, indeed, any serious threat to again seize Chinese

territory might not at once lead to a coalition between China and Japan which it would be perilous to face.

UNDIVINE AFFLATION.

(*Daily Press*, 30th November.)

The NELSON Centenary evoked much poetry. The Poet Laureate, Mr. ALFRED AUSTIN, has surpassed all his previous efforts with "Wardens of the Wave," the first two stanzas of which we here reproduce:

I.
Not to exult, in braggart vein,
Over our gallant foes.
Nor boast of victories on the main,
Which Heaven alone bestows;
Vainglorious clarion, clamorous drum,
For which the vulgar crave,—
Not these, not any such, become
The Wardens of the Wave.

II.
No, but when slumbering war-hounds wake,
To one's last gasp of breath
Face combat for one's country's sake,
With male disdain of death.
'Twas thus did Nelson live, did die,
Far from his Land and home,
Making his roof of storm-swept sky,
His pillow of the foam.

As it is the fashion to poke fun at the effusions of the present LAUREATE, we will forbear present comment; and introduce our second illustration, from the more popular pen of Mr. GEORGE MEREDITH. We find it advisable to quote it in full:

I.
The hundred years have passed, and he
Whose name appeased a nation's fears,
As with a hand laid over sea;
To thunder through the foeman's ears
Defeat before his blast of fire;
Lives in the immortality
That poets dream and noblest souls desire.

II.
Never did nation's need evoke
Hero like him for aid, the while
A Continent was cannon-smoke
Or peace in slavery: this one Isle
Reflecting Nature: this one man
Her sea-hound and her mortal stroke,
With war-worn body aye in battle's van.

III.
And do we love him well, as well
As he his country, we may greet,
With hand on steel, our passing bell
Nigh on the swing, for prelude sweet
To the music heard when his last breath
Hung on its ebb beside the knell,
And VICTORY in his ear sang gracious Death.

IV.
Ah, day of glory! day of fears!
Day of a people bowed as one!
Behold across those hundred years
The lion flash of gun at gun:
Our bitter pride; our love bereaved;
What pall of cloud o'ercame our sun
That day, to bear his wrath, the end achieved.

V.
Joy that no more with murder's frown
The ancient rivals bark apart.
Now Nelson to brave France is shown
A hero after her own heart:
And he now scanning that quick race,
To whom through life his glove was thrown,
Would know a sister spirit to embrace.

These writings, which, it must be remembered, have thousands of readers who profess to understand, appreciate, and admire them, seem to show that English poetry is not the most useful vehicle for the transmission of thought. The exigencies of rhythm and rhyme are not favourable to the presentation of reason and right. Chinese and Japanese poetry, being less mechanically complicated, is not quite so hopeless. The Chinese poet who compares his mistress's eyebrows to a moth's antennæ is straightforward reading; as also the Japanese poet who in five measured lines gives us a vivid picture of the autumn moon making visible against white clouds the silhouetted wings of wild-goose.

[December 2, 1905.]

"True wit is nature to advantage dressed
/What oft was thought but ne'er so well
expressed."

In that couplet an idea is sensibly presented, and in a form that has high mnemonic value; but as its prosody is so simple, we presume that it does not provoke the heightened aesthetic ecstasy to be noted in the poetry-lovers who have been gloating over Mr. MEREDITH's sonorous syllables. Any attempt to put his poem into straightforward prose should show how it affects us. We understand that a hundred years have passed since October 1805, and that NELSON, whose very name once sufficed to quiet the fears and tremblings of a terror-stricken nation, is immortal in the sense that poets dream, and all noble souls wish to be immortal in just the same way. The simile of a hand laid over sea, to appease the fears at home, simply recalls childish recollections of JACK-THE-GIANT-KILLER's victim. After careful study, which should not be necessary, we gather that NELSON's name, thundered "through the foeman's ears," defeated them before they encountered the fiery blast of his guns; and this we cannot believe. It is as difficult to place "or peace in slavery" in its proper place in a prose rendering; and similar difficulties will be experienced in transliterating the remaining stanzas. Mr. AUSTIN, having chosen a simpler form, tells a simpler story, which causes us to wonder that the critics should so unhesitatingly have instituted comparisons between his "message" and that of Mr. MEREDITH. Even Mr. AUSTIN's straightforward doggerel, however, opens mysteriously in the second stanza, causing us to wonder whose last gasp of breath is to awaken the slumbering war-hounds. GAUTIER teaches the poetically-minded that form is everything: FLAUBERT said that a beautiful verse meaning nothing was superior to a verse less beautiful meaning something. Evidently this school has not yet been laughed out of existence, which, for the sake of the simple-minded, matter-of-fact people who are too much ashamed to confess that they do not care for poetry, is perhaps a pity. Another French poet, whose name escapes for the moment, remarked that true poetry could not have truth for its object; but had only itself. The familiar jargon, art for art's sake, will be recognised. Ordinary, everyday people, supposing they avoid the temptation to pretend with so many human sheep that they enjoy this or that poet, do not always earmark the poetic follies they encounter. When ROSETTI talks of a "hollow halo like a cup," or of "hearing tears"; when MORRIS describes a red-haired girl in a yellow frock as

"In glory of gold and glory of hair,
And glory of glorious face most fair"—

the reader, not daring to criticise where so many praise, but conscious that all is not right, murmurs vaguely about "poetic licence." But poets have no licence to insult commonsense with absurdities and vacuities. Poetic licence is the permission to evade the mechanical rules of prosody so that the sense may not suffer; and its admission is a confession of the truth of our original premise that poetry is not a suitable vehicle for the conveyance of sensible ideas coherently and in order. Being thus limited to the field of pretty conceits and fancies, it will be seen that an intelligent man may fairly relegate it to its proper place, without suffering aspersion of his intellectual reputation. It may be comforting to remember this, whenever balderdash is published over an honoured and weight-carrying name.

CONTENTMENT BY INTIMIDATION.

(*Daily Press*, 1st December.)

An Imperial Decree issued at Peking on the 24th instant, as a warning to those Chinese who are dreaming of revolution, is in the name of the EMPEROR, but bears internal evidence of the temper of the EMPRESS-DOWAGER. It opens with a rather amusing statement, and one that strikes us as being somewhat inconsistent with the reverence for ancestry with which we have been accustomed to credit the Chinese. It says, or the EMPRESS-DOWAGER says, that "the present dynasty has always been conceded as the most merciful and lenient in its treatment of the people of China, in comparison with all the preceding dynasties put together." If the translator has justly chosen the words "merciful" and "lenient," they seem to show how very peculiar is the standpoint from which those in power at Peking regard the toiling masses who year by year pay the piper. These patient people are told—for the impatient rebels will merely laugh at the warning and its futile threats—that the EMPEROR has lately been encouraging Government reforms based on modern methods; and the suggestion is that if there had never been any expressions of discontent at all, the need for changes and reforms would have been noticed in the palace. Thus those who had been talking together of demanding and making reforms in spite of the Manchu rulers were ungrateful fellows, blind to the paternal, or grand maternal, nature of the Government. Taxation to the limit, and a steadily dawning consciousness, induced by observation of the happier lot of their Japanese neighbours of the fact that they are not getting what they pay for, is more likely to have evoked revolutionary movements than deliberate excitations by lawbreakers, which is the Peking way of putting it. From what has been authoritatively said of the EMPEROR we can believe that it is not only likely that his mind has been turned to the need for reform; and released from the domineering influence of the DOWAGER EMPRESS, we do not think he would have issued just this decree in question. Just as America has said that the continuance of the boycott would embitter and estrange those who would otherwise try to bring about the reform desired—a caution which has fallen on deaf ears, and none dearer than those at Peking—so this warning to revolutionaries says their continued agitation will but serve to greatly obstruct the progress of reforms and destroy all hopes of a re-organised Government. Something similar was forthcoming from the Russian bureaucracy, at the beginning of the present revolution in the land of the TSAR. This Chinese decree goes further, however, and thereby demonstrates how fearful is the dowagerial mind, and how feeble is its once strong clutch upon the handle of power. Large rewards are offered for the arrest and punishment of the discontented; and those who have been discontented are promised forgiveness and assurance of being well rewarded if they will betray those who have been associated with them in wishing and praying for a better state of things. If the Government really has a mind to reform, as it professes, there is a much more simple way of stifling discontent and making the nation loyal and peaceful. Instead, however, and in addition to the bribes referred to, officials are ordered to be diligent, severe, and without mercy; and others are invited to denounce any official who does not seem to be sufficiently zealous

in unearthing and punishing the discontented. We need not elaborate the unhappy picture that all this summons to mind. Evidently real reform is not to be hoped for yet, while such tactics are declared to be the only way to preserve general good order in the land.

HONGKONG JOTTINGS.

28th November.

With the end of the month so near at hand and the dollar standing at 2/1 $\frac{1}{2}$, the "topic of the hour" is the salary question. When exchange went down to below 1/7 the wailing of the men who are paid on the silver basis was loud in the land; while the countenances of those paid on a sterling basis wore the smile of prosperity and content. Now the lamentations are heard in the other camp. This rise in the dollar makes a lump of a difference in some men's salaries. Stories are going the rounds of certain Government officials who in the last twelve months have earned increments in their salaries, and now find that they are getting about \$100 less a month than they were receiving before they obtained what I suppose must be called an Irishman's "increment." A big rise in exchange, therefore, hits the sterling man harder than the fall hits the silver man, for his expenses are mainly in silver unless he resides in one of the hotels whose rates are fixed in sterling.

Since the remainder of these Jottings passed into the hands of the compositors, I have learnt something that affects the accuracy of the concluding remark of the preceding note. The Hongkong Hotel Company have reverted to a silver basis in their charges to monthly residents and have intimated their intention to continue charging in dollars until exchange drops again to 2/- when the accounts will again be stated in pounds sterling. Thus even the men paid in sterling and living in the hotel are not unaffected by the rise in exchange. A married couple who have been paying £20 a month, and have now to pay (on a 2/- basis) \$200, will be paying about \$9 more than would have been the case at the present rate of exchange had the sterling charges remained unaltered. The Hotel Company converted their rates three years ago at an exchange of 1/8. Since May, 1903, exchange has not dropped below that figure. The approximate average exchange value of the dollar in 1900 was 2s. 0/16d; 1901, 1s. 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ d; 1902, 1s. 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ d; 1903, 1s. 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ d; and 1904, 1s. 10d.

People are now, of course, complaining that the cost of the necessities of life in the Colony is practically the same as when the exchange value of the dollar was at 1/8. It is all very well for the consumer to demand reductions, but in comparatively few cases is it possible for tradesmen to appreciably reduce their charges. It can, of course, be done on goods imported directly from gold-nugget countries, but tradesmen cannot afford to sell a ten-shilling article now at the same figure they were able to sell it at when the exchange value of the dollar last stood at 2/-. In the interval the dollar has been down to 1/6 $\frac{1}{2}$; rents have gone up enormously in the Colony, and consequently salaries have had to go up to enable men to pay these increased rents. If the reader will ponder over the matter he will realise that a general increase in rents must inevitably lead to higher salaries, and to pay these higher salaries prices generally have had to be increased. The whole question of "the cost of living" in Hongkong revolves around the question of rents—the rents, bear in mind not only of the resident European population, but the entire Chinese community as well. Building operations in the Colony have not kept pace with the steady growth in population. The Building Ordinance of 1903 has probably checked investment in Chinese house property, for the Ordinance has entailed heavy expenses on owners of such property. These expenses are, of course, recovered from tenants in the form of higher rentals, and the result is that the wages of labourers and artisans have appreciably increased. It would, indeed be very instructive if the Government were to compile, as the Japanese Government does, a

table showing the average wage of artisans and labourers every year. In the last edition of the Japanese "Résumé Statistique" it is shown that wages increased from 60 to 100 per cent from 1895 to 1901. And during the last ten years the increase has been in about the same proportion, I should think, in Hongkong. There can never be any stability about prices in Hongkong until we get a fixed exchange.

There is food for reflection in the announcement made by the Chairman of the Dairy Farm Co. last week that if the community do not support the frozen food branch of the Company's business, better than they have done heretofore, Hongkong will lose what the directors of the company rightly enough regard as a very important branch of the company's business. The company is certainly entitled to take credit for checking the rise in the price of butchers' meat in the colony last year, and the community would probably soon find cause to rue it if the foreign food supply business were discontinued. If it were possible to sell Australian meat in Hongkong at the same rates as local butchers' meat, I imagine there would be no reason to complain of lack of support, but the Chairman was doubtless correct when he intimated that many, perhaps, did not realise that "there is really not the difference between the company's rates and those ruling for Chinese meat as would at first sight appear." The trouble is that this is not generally recognised. The Chairman said that besides getting 25 per cent more nutriment by purchasing Australian meat, customers could be sure of obtaining full weight at the company's dépôt. They do not always get it in the market.

The writer of the letter which appeared in the *Daily Press* one day last week lamenting that there is no Society of Amateur Photographers in Hongkong, when, as Long, Hing & Co.'s competition shows, there is no lack of interest in photography in the colony, is evidently a comparatively new comer. Attempts have been made to form a society of the kind in the colony. Only two years ago what at the start looked a promising attempt was made, but it came to nothing. There is, however, one little society of the kind in the colony, but it is confined to men in the service of Messrs. Butterfield and Swire. Some of the best work in the exhibition was done by members of this little society. By-the-way, I wonder whether the judges noticed that the picture which they awarded the first prize has the defect which results from the camera being moved during the exposure? And, *vide* the third prize, is it true that in Hongkong Harbour the sun sets in the East?

BANYAN

NORWEGIAN LOYALTY.

On the 25th inst., the day on which King Haakon of Norway and his Queen entered their new kingdom, a telegram, of which the following is a translation, was sent to their Majesties:—

"Flags are flying from hundred masts,
"thousand Norwegians far from their home,
"steads hail in their thoughts their King
"and Queen. Hail our beloved country."

To this telegram the following reply was received here to-day:—

"The Queen and I request you kindly to
"bring our thanks to the Norwegians in
"Hongkong who wished us such a hearty
"welcome in their dear, far-off fatherland.
HAAKON."

According to telegrams received by a local Norwegian, more than a hundred Norwegian ships in the East from Singapore to Vladivostock were clad in gay bunting on the 25th.

English newspapers continue to exhibit wonderful credulity in connection with the supposed "possibilities of jiu-jitsu." They are now gravely repeating, with naive comments, an American newspaper's impudent story of a small woman throwing a big, heavy man over her head. The ruffian, who had assaulted the Japanese maiden, is said to have "described a parabola" over her head. We should describe it as hyperbole.

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

A meeting of the Sanitary Board was held on the 28th November at the Board Room. The Hon. Dr. F. Clark (president) presided, and there were also present: Dr. W. W. Pearse, M.O.H., Lt.-Col. Josling, Mr. H. W. Slade, Dr. Macfarlane, Hon. Mr. A. W. Brewin, Hon. Mr. W. Chatham, Mr. Fung Wa Chun, Mr. Lau Chu Pak and Mr. G. A. Woodcock (secretary).

CEMENT v. LIME CONCRETE.

The Rev. J. J. Noval, of the Spanish Procurator, requested the Board's permission to re-concrete the ground surface of the Procurator with cement concrete four inches thick instead of with lime concrete six inches thick.

Mr. Rumjahn minuted—In one of the sittings of the committee last year for making suggestions for amendments of the Public Health Ordinance, it was suggested to substitute as an alternative half the thickness of cement concrete in place of lime concrete. I forget now why this alternative was left out in the committee's recommendations. It is preferable and more satisfactory to have even half the thickness of cement concrete to the prescribed thickness of lime concrete.

Mr. Fung Wa Chun agreed that four inches of cement concrete was preferable, and the Hon. Registrar General suggested that in view of the surveyor's report the proposal should be approved.

Mr. A. Carter, surveyor, reported that the great disadvantage of the use of lime concrete for covering ground surfaces in Hongkong was the poor quality of lime obtained in the Colony, it being almost impossible to get a suitable hydraulic lime for the work; therefore the work carried out was unsatisfactory. In the case of cement it was very different; a first rate cement could readily be obtained locally, and in the majority of cases better work was done. The difference of opinion came in when the quality of the work was only medium, and on the balance between pass or condemn. He was strongly of the opinion that if cement concrete were used with reasonable supervision, first rate work would be obtained and very little difference of opinion take place. If Section III. could be amended to allow four inches of good cement concrete to be passed it would be a very great improvement.

The Secretary minuted that he was afraid the Government would not amend the section at present. It might, however, be voted for the next lot of amendments.

The President minuted that he thought the Board should approve of the proposal.

The PRESIDENT—The building in question is an existing, not a new one, and the wording of Section III. is that to the effect that that section does not apply to any existing building provided the ground surface is paved to the satisfaction of the Board. I think under the circumstances we may take it that if four inches of cement concrete is put down the ground surface will be maintained to the satisfaction of the Board. There is no question that cement concrete is better than lime concrete, which is very little used at Home. I propose the Board inform the applicant that we agree to his proposal.

Hon. Mr. BREWIN seconded, and the motion was carried.

A CONCRETE QUESTION.

In reply to notices served upon them to re-concrete certain houses in Elgin, Staunton and Aberdeen Streets, Messrs. Palmer and Turner wrote stating that they thought the notices must have been served in error. The houses in question were concreted by order of the Board in the Autumn of 1896, and in September of that year they received the Board's certificate of approval of the work. This was done under the supervision of their firm, and they had inspected it within the last few days, and found the concrete in every respect as good as when it was laid.

Inspector Woolley reported having opened the ground surfaces of these houses for inspection. In each house he found the concrete very bad, particularly so in No. 28 Aberdeen Street.

The surface was covered with a layer of Canton tiles, and there was no concrete underneath.

Mr. Rumjahn minuted—There are so many qualities of earth available here for the making up of a lime concrete that it is not an easy matter for experts to pronounce a concrete as good or bad after having been laid for some years. It would be more satisfactory to all concerned if two inches of cement concrete were substituted in the Ordinance for six inches of lime.

The Hon. Registrar General minuted—This is just the class of correspondence that should be considered publicly.

Mr. Lau Chu Pak in a minute stated—I agree that these papers should be considered publicly. Since expert opinion disagrees as to the quality of the concrete used, I suggest that some limit of time, say 25 years, should be laid down; so that owners once having had the ground surfaces of their houses concreted, would not be called upon to re-concrete until that limit of time had expired. The present system is likely to open to many abuses. Some arrangements should be made for the Board's subordinate officers to pass the work done quicker, so as to enable the occupiers to remove back to their houses earlier. Under the present system they are compelled to live in the street or under the verandah for at least one week, and sometimes a fortnight. I have been approached several times on this question, and the owners consider it a great hardship that their tenants should have to wait so long for the examination and passing of the work done, especially during the cold and wet seasons. It would be better for one officer to inspect the old concrete, and another officer to pass the new concrete.

The Consulting Sanitary Surveyor reported that he saw no reason why the notices which had been served should be enforced. In cutting up concrete with a pick axe, due regard should be taken of the amount of force that had to be exerted, and not merely the pulverised condition of the concrete. In each case he saw a small new piece of concrete cut, and was satisfied with the powers of its resistance.

In his report the Sanitary Surveyor made a number of suggestions as to improvements which might be effected in the houses in question.

The PRESIDENT thought it would meet the wishes of the Board if Mr. Lau Chu Pak's suggestion that the old cement should be examined by one officer, and the new concrete passed by another were put into effect. He did not think they could go into the question of the undercurrents of knowledge which he suggested because in all Asiatic countries it was impossible to keep matters of this sort secret. He did not think there was any reason for the Board to suspect any of its officers of taking an active part in favour of one contractor more than another. With regard to the general question he thought this was a favourable opportunity for them to recommend the Government to amend Section II¹, so as to require the laying down of four inches of cement concrete in favour of six inches of lime concrete, which that section laid down. He thought the change might be made when the Government next amended the ordinances. They knew the many objections to constant tinkering with the Public Health Ordinances, but as a few amendments were accumulating he thought they might add this as one worthy of consideration. In the meantime he thought the Board might agree to accept four inches of cement concrete in place of six inches of lime concrete pending the amending of the ordinance. Cement was more durable and easier to get than good lime. It was an open question whether concrete made with lime did not deteriorate in the course of eight or nine years; the experience of the Board's officers rather inclined to favour the opinion that it did. The Board would understand that their officer, in asking for the re-concreting of these premises, was doing so simply with a view to mitigating the influence of plague in the Colony. They were all convinced that the presence of human plague intimately depended on rats, and if they could keep these out of the houses it would go a long way towards mitigating the disease. They should take steps to have these ground surfaces concreted if required, whether they had been done five or six years ago, or not at all. Property owners should not be harassed and worried, but they

knew the reason why this concrete order was issued. He proposed that the Board approach the Government, firstly with a view to the amendment of Section III., and secondly that they should be prepared to accept four inches of cement concrete in favour of the present requirement of six inches of lime concrete.

Hon. Mr. BREWIN—I should like some information as to how the plague inspectors examined concrete.

Dr. PEARSE said it was impossible to say from the surface whether concrete was good or bad, so a piece had to be cut out. After the plague epidemic was over, he selected certain districts where the plague was worst, and told the inspectors to open up the floors of houses in those districts. These floors were afterwards repaired.

Mr. LAU CHU PAK—I should like to know how often this is done? After two or three years more the people will be called upon to re-concrete.

The PRESIDENT—That depends on the cases of plague. If concrete is found unsatisfactory, an owner is asked to do something whether he did it three or fifteen years ago.

Mr. LAU CHU PAK—And this work is done under the supervision of the Board's officers.

Dr. PEARSE—I don't know whether Mr. Lau Chu Pak quite followed the matter. I think he will find that most of the houses opened by plague inspectors are not houses which were previously opened. Those which the inspectors are now opening might be possibly condemned three years hence if the concrete perishes; but if they are done well this will not be required. Mr. Lau also spoke about people being kept out of houses. This occurred on Station Street sometime ago, because the owners were putting down concrete on the ground surfaces. We can hardly blame ourselves for causing people to turn out, although I think a certain amount of delay is to be expected. We have issued such a very large number of concrete notices that it becomes impossible to inspect them with the same expediency as the nuisance notices.

Mr. FUNG WA CHUN—I think the Board ought at least to inform these people that after concrete has been laid there will be no requirement for inspection if our officers are so very busy and cannot attend to the work.

Dr. PEARSE—They do attend to the work.

Mr. BREWIN—I agree with Mr. Fung Wa Chun. If we are going to turn people out we must make the time as short as possible, and if we are unable to cover the inspections we must reduce the amount of work; I don't think there can be two opinions about that; neither do I think it fair to owners that a plague inspector should require this work to be done. We should have a qualified man to inspect concrete, an opinion which we can all back up.

The PRESIDENT—The Board's officers are qualified as far as I know.

Hon. Mr. BREWIN—The plague inspectors?

The PRESIDENT—It is a question who is qualified, but I should think as the plague inspectors have been from ten to fifteen years doing this work, they would be as well qualified as anyone else. When an architect writes in and protests against their notices, it is only natural that we should go to a higher authority as we would appeal to a higher court in a legal case. If that is not satisfactory we go to a still higher authority. I quite agree with you that we must not ask for more concrete work to be done than can be done.

Mr. CHATHAM—I am quite of the opinion that cement is preferable to lime concrete if mixed in reasonable proportions.

Mr. FUNG WA CHUN—Do I understand from you, Mr. President, that once the place is inspected it is passed?

The PRESIDENT—Yes. If it is found satisfactory.

Mr. FUNG WA CHUN—Well, the Board must not then turn round and say that new concrete is required.

Mr. LAU CHU PAK—The Board should grant certificates.

The PRESIDENT—Certificates are being granted.

Hon. Mr. CHATHAM seconded the motion, which was carried.

MORTALITY STATISTICS.

The percentage of deaths, at a rate of 1,000 per annum, for the week ended 11th instant was

18.7 as against 14.9 for the corresponding period of last year. This rate was exclusive of the Army and Navy.

LIMEWASHING.

For the fortnight ending 21st inst. 2,058 houses were linewashed in the Central, and 317 in the Western district.

RAT RETURN.

For the week ending 25th instant 617 rats were caught, of which 22 were infected, while twelve were discovered to be infected out of 599 caught during the previous week.

ST. ANDREW'S BALL.

Scots abroad, in some respects more patriotic than those at home, invariably celebrate St. Andrew's Day in a manner befitting the memory and dignity of their patron saint, and this fact is all the more noteworthy when one remembers that in Scotia itself there is little done to indicate the special interest that that day should possess for all born north of the Tweed. In Hongkong the large body of Scotsmen are not behind their exiled compatriots in other parts of the world in their celebration of the anniversary of St. Andrew, and the form which it takes, a ball, enables them to have the gentler sex share in the rejoicing of the evening and at the same time to extend their hospitality to friends whose birth places are not to be found in Scotland. An event of some years' standing, the St. Andrew's Ball promoted by the Hongkong St. Andrew's Society has come to be regarded as the largest in the East, and certainly last night's event showed no diminution in popularity or a falling off in the enjoyment which it affords to so many.

As usual the decorations of the City Hall were on a most elaborate scale. Entering the hall one found one's self ascending a stairway which lost its customary bare and stony aspect under a wealth of plants. At the landing one's attention was arrested by the brilliance and variety of the embellishment that had been carried out here. From a mass of greenery on the floor, there peeped two cannons, above which a large mirror reflected the flashing of the lights and carried one's eyes to the really handsome vari-coloured thistle that sparkled at the top. It dominated the whole stairway, and with the electric lights gleaming from amidst the plants heightened the effect of the other decorations which consisted of draperies bearing alternately St. Andrew's crosses and thistles. Arrived at the reception room, the magnificent arum lily lights appealed to one's sense of beauty, and passing into the ball rooms scenes of striking brilliance were presented. In the St. Andrew's Hall four crayons of Mary Queen of Scots, Robert Burns, Sir Walter Scott and John Knox, with a St. Andrew's cross in the centre, and draped with various flags, occupied the place of honour opposite the principal entrance, while facing these were the coat of arms of the Hongkong St. Andrews' Society. St. George's Hall had the life-sized portrait of Queen Victoria, flanked with bunting in a prominent position with the arms of the United Kingdom on the opposite wall. In both halls, as also in the retiring and reception rooms, shields, with bannerettes behind, were hung on the walls. These bore the arms and crests of the clans and notable families of Scotland, while below these were the names of towns in Scotland. Many of them were rather obscure and would doubtless lead to much questioning and perhaps to a fear that the Scots present did not know their native land as well as they ought. The spelling in some instances was rather weird, but what does John Chauhan knew of the geography of the northern half of Britain? These place names, which included several counties, had more than a historical or reminiscent interest. They were really trysting places, so that when a gentleman had persuaded a lady "to do him the honour," he could arrange to meet her, say, at Banff or Edinburgh. Both halls were hung with festoons of white frosted lamps, the centres being occupied with bunches of wytelites, a new combination. The orchestra was artistically treated with plants and greenery, while spears and lances added to the picturesqueness of the surroundings. The verandah was protected with bunting and decorated with shields

bearing crests and coats of arms. The retiring room had the arms of Scotland in a conspicuous place.

Descending to the theatre, there was the same artistic effect in the adornment of the interior. The tables were beautifully laid out, while round the front of the gallery were shields alternately bearing the Lion Rampant and the Scottish Thistle. Behind these were battle axes and spears. Higher up on the auditorium there was a similar scheme of decoration, with the addition of the motto "a man's a man for a' that." The stage looked a picture. There was a horse shoe table, artistically set out. Surrounding it were plants of various descriptions, while at the rear was a life sized painting of St. Andrew, the work of Mr. Duncan of the Kowloon Dock Co. as were also the crayons in St. Andrew's Hall. The electric lights, which were arranged by Mr. William Barker, of Messrs. E.C. Wilks and Co., showed the decorations to perfection.

The retiring rooms, card rooms, etc., were arranged as before, and everything was done to secure the comfort of the guests. In charge of the arrangements were the following gentlemen.

Invitation Committee—Capt. W. Arbuthnot Leslie, A.D.C., Hon. Mr. W. Chatham, Mr. T. P. Cochrane, Mr. W. A. Cruicksbank, Hon. Mr. C. W. Dickson, Mr. J. C. Peter, Dr. A. Ronnie, Mr. H. W. Robertson, Hon. Mr. R. Shewan, Mr. J. R. M. Smith, Hon. Mr. Gershom Stewart, Hon. Mr. A. M. Thomson, Messrs. W. Wilson and D. Wood. Supper and Wine Committee—Messrs. D. Auld, J. W. C. Bonar, A. Boyd, W. D. Braidwood, D. E. Brown, H. F. Campbell (Convenor), H. F. Carmichael, Duncan Clark, P. Dow, G. I. Duncan, Andrew Forbes, Donald Forbes, A. D. Galloway, J. D. Logan, D. MacDonald (B. and S.) R. Mitchell, W. Parlane, W. Ramsay, J. Rankin, A. Rodger, J. Walker, Decoration Committee—Messrs. W. L. Carter, G. Dickie, G. Duncan, F. Graham, T. C. Gray, R. Henderson, W. C. Jack (Convenor). Lieut. G. B. MacDonald, R.A., Messrs. J. McCubbin, A. Ritchie, J. Rodger, J. Gray Scott, T. Skinner, G. Smith, D. Templeton, H. S. Wynne, Dancing and Music, Committee—Messrs. H. G. C. Bailey, W. A. Cruicksbank, H. W. Fraser, R. Macpherson, J. Paterson, N. H. Rutherford, Colin C. Scott, Murray Stewart (Convenor), O. D. Thomson, and Hon. Secretary. Card Room Committee—Messrs. W. H. Donald, A. G. Gordon, T. F. Hough (Convenor), P. S. Jameson, J. Gordon, Mackie, Ladies' Room, Dr. C. Forsyth. The completeness of the arrangements redounded to the credit of the secretary, Mr. W. Armstrong.

The guests began to arrive before 9 o'clock, at which hour dancing commenced to the strains of the music supplied by the band of the Royal West Kent Regiment. They continued to arrive for some time and, though the accommodation was taxed to its limit, everybody seemed to be in the happiest mood. The official set of lancers was composed of H.E. the Governor and Mrs. Gershom Stewart; Hon. Mr. Gershom Stewart and Mrs. Villiers Hatton; Colonel C. H. Darling and Lady Piggott; Commodore H. P. Williams and Lady Berkeley; Hon. Mr. R. Shewan and Mrs. H. P. Williams; Sir Francis Piggott and Mrs. W. A. Cruicksbank; Sir Henry Berkeley and Mrs. David Wood; Dr. A. Rennie and Mrs. W. Chatham. Mr. Alex. Robertson was the bagpiper, and at supper, which was served in two sittings, played the Governor to his seat and also introduced the haggis in the time-honoured fashion.

The President, the Hon. Gershom Stewart presided at supper, the party sitting at the platform table being Mrs. W. Ramsay and Mr. W. Wilson; Mrs. F. E. Kent and Mr. W. A. Cruicksbank; Mrs. David Wood and Hon. Mr. T. Sercombe Smith; Lady Berkeley and Commodore H. P. Williams; Mrs. W. A. Cruicksbank and Sir Francis Piggott; Mrs. Gershom Stewart and H. E. the Governor; Hon. Mr. Gershom Stewart and Mrs. Villiers Hatton; Mr. A. Rennie and Lady Piggott; Hon. Mr. R. Shewan and Mrs. H. P. Williams; Sir Henry Berkeley and Mrs. W. Chatham; Col. F. E. Kent and Mrs. J. C. Peter; Mr. David Wood and Mrs. W. Wilson.

Several gentlemen appeared in the "garb of old Gaul," many ladies wore tartan ribbons or sashes, and nearly everybody had a sprig of heather as a buttonhole.

Greetings were received from kindred Societies at Shanghai, Tientsin, Yokohama, Singapore, Amoy, Manila, Foochow, Swatow and Wei-hai-wei.

SUPREME COURT.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

Friday, 24th November.

A COMPRADORE'S CLAIM.

His Lordship gave judgment in the action in which Yung Fiu Lo, compradore to the Deutsche Asiatische Bank, claimed from Yung Fan Kin, recently shroff of the same institution, the sum of \$21,400 under and by virtue of an agreement in writing dated 3rd October, 1903.

Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., instructed by Mr. C. D. Wilkinson (of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist) represented the plaintiff, and Mr. E. H. Sharp, K.C., instructed by Mr. H. W. Looker (of Messrs. Deacon, Looker and Deacon) appeared for the defendant.

His Lordship said—The plaintiff in this action is the compradore of the Deutsche Asiatische Bank, and the defendant is the banknote shroff. It is brought to recover on several grounds the sum of \$21,400 paid by the shroff on a cheque admitted to be forged, which sum the plaintiff had himself been required to pay, and had paid, to the Bank under this agreement as compradore with the Bank. The progress of a cheque from the counter where it is presented for payment, to the shroff in charge of the notes, and of the cheque with the notes necessary to pay it from the shroff back again to the counter where the payee is waiting, was described with great particularity. It is a system of checks and counter-checks—some Chinese, some European in their origin, devised with much ingenuity to prevent fraud. It had, however, one weak spot which was detected by some fraudulent Chinaman who evaded all the precautions, passed a false cheque through and obtained the proceeds. The question is whether the shroff is liable to his compradore for handing over the notes necessary to pay the cheque on to the counter clerk, either under his agreement or on any other of the grounds insisted on in the argument. No charge either of originating or of participating in the fraud was made against the defendant, but the stress of the case made against him was one of negligence in not detecting the fraud.

The stage in the Bank procedure which it is necessary to dwell on is the verification of the cheque by the European staff.

After a cheque comes from the counter it passes into the hands of a Portuguese clerk who initials it if he is satisfied that the drawer's account is sufficiently in credit: he then passes it on to a German clerk who examines his own book and initials the cheque: he passes it on to the Chinese cash-book clerk, who makes an entry in his book, chops the cheque with what was called a "Paid Chop," and then passes it on the banknote shroff, that is, the defendant, who counts out the notes, and passes them on to the counter-clerk. The shroff's duty, before handing over the note, is to see that the proper initials are on the cheque: that is, according to the plaintiff, the initials of the German clerk. This was corroborated by the Manager of the Bank who said that the authority to pay was the fact that these initials were on the cheque: and that the "Paid Chop" being on the cheque without the initials would be no authority. Instructions had been given to this effect, and it would seem that they applied to all the clerks through whose hands a cheque passed; they should take no further action if these initials were wanting. Whether the initials without the chop would be sufficient is a question which does not arise, as it was practically conceded that this chop was on the cheque in question. The probabilities are also in favour of this: as if the fraud was perpetrated, as was suggested, by the Chinese cash-book clerk, it is not likely that he would have omitted this formality. The cheque was missing at the end of the day, although an entry appeared in the shroff's book that he had paid \$21,400 on a cheque. There was no corresponding entry in the cash-book clerk's book.

I do see on my notes that Mr. Felix Kilian, the German clerk, said that he did not put his initials on a cheque for this amount; but it is understood that he did not. One of the points in issue is whether the cheque was paid without the initials, or whether they were forged.

There seems to have been an enquiry made into the matter of the missing cheque by the compradore that same evening, and I admitted evidence as to what took place at this enquiry. I admitted this as being part of the *res gestae*. I confess to having been rather alarmed at the amount of hearsay evidence which this decision sanctioned: it included statements by a person who had since absconded as to the chop and initials being on the cheque. It did not seem however to be necessary to have the point more fully argued, as *al iude* there is a certain amount of evidence that the cheque was apparently in order. The counter clerk who handed over the notes to the person who had presented the cheque said that he did not remember whether the blue pencil initials were on the cheque though he was sure that the "Paid Chop" was on it. He said, however, that so far as his duties were concerned the cheque appeared to be in order, and his duty was to see that those blue initials were on it. The probabilities of the case are in favour of this being so; and I, therefore, have come to the conclusion that the initials of the German clerk were forged: and that these forged initials were on the cheque at the time it came into the defendant's hands. The question therefore takes this form: Is the defendant liable for having paid the cheque on forged initials: such initials having been put on by some clerk through whose hands the cheque passed before it came to the defendant.

I go one step further. It was explained that Mr. Kilian's initials were in fact a German long "f" and a "k"; but I cannot say that they were easily decipherable as such. They appeared to me, and must have appeared to a Chinese clerk, as a series of blue strokes. But even taking them to be German characters, they were easily to be copied; and I am of opinion that the forger took care that what he put on the cheque should pass without difficulty as the German clerk's well-known signature: that they were meant to, and did deceive, the defendant. Under such circumstances can the defendant be held liable?

First, under his agreement with the compradore. A good deal of discussion arose as to whether the translation certified by the Court Translator was accurate.

I entertain no doubt that such a certified translation may be attacked, for the Court translator cannot be infallible. A great deal was said during the argument which shows that the existing procedure for obtaining his translation of a document is unsatisfactory. It was suggested that he merely affixed his certificate to a translation supplied by one of the parties, and that it was therefore hopeless for the other party to put a translation before him. It is of course advisable that translations of Chinese documents should be agreed before putting them before the Court. But if agreement is not possible, I cannot withdraw from the other party the right of challenging the translation. I will endeavour to put the question so far as it concerns the Court Translator on a more satisfactory footing in future. For the present, however, I must deal with the evidence given to rebut the translation of this document which was put in by the plaintiff. Mr. Au Fung Chi, the principal Chinese writer in the Registrar General's Department, was called. But the difficulty I have in placing much reliance on his evidence is that he does not speak or understand English. His evidence had to be translated by the interpreter, and it was impossible to get a very clear idea of the basis on which his somewhat ingenuous paraphrase reposed. I know that occult meanings are often to be found in Eastern languages; but it is absolutely necessary, if the Court is expected to appreciate them, that they should be expounded by some one very learned in both languages. In order, therefore, to arrive at the meaning of this agreement recourse was had to the simpler method of obtaining from the interpreter a translation of each character used in the document. From this I have little doubt that its meaning is very fairly rendered in the certified translation; and I have therefore merely to interpret the following sentence:

"Should there be any shortage, mistake, loss, embezzlement, absconding, or any other such like evils in respect of any bank notes and monies paid or received through the hands of Yeung Fan Kin, and all other matters, the responsibility will solely rest with Fan Kin."

It was contended for the plaintiff that as there was in fact a "shortage," a "mistake," or a "loss," in the shroff's account at the end of the day in question, the case fell exactly within the meaning of the above paragraph. I do not agree. These three words are followed by "embezzlement" and "absconding," which must clearly be interpreted to refer to acts of the shroff himself; and I am of opinion that the three preceding words must be governed by the same principle, and must refer only to "shortage," "mistake," or "loss" resulting from the shroff's own acts. This interpretation is borne out by the reason of the thing. For otherwise, the shroff would become liable for the misfeasance of other people: he would in fact become a compradore: indeed, his liability might be greater than that of the compradore, for he would be liable in respect of a fraud committed by one of the European clerks. It is only assumed that this fraud was committed by the Chinese cash-book clerk: but it might have been committed by the Portuguese clerk. The compradore's liability is limited to misfeasances by the Chinese staff whom he employs, and Mr. Pollock admitted that the shroff's liability could not exceed that of the compradore himself. This interpretation of the agreement is also borne out by the evidence of the plaintiff himself, who admitted in cross-examination that if a loss were caused by the dishonesty of others, and there were no negligence on the shroff's part, he could not hold him liable.

In construing the agreement I have omitted to deal with the question of negligence. That was put forward as a separate ground of liability, which I will consider presently. What I have said as to the liability of the shroff for the fraud or mistake of others must of course be qualified by this: that it is a fraud or mistake which he himself should not have discovered, in which case his failure to discover it would become a mistake of his own, and he would be liable under the agreement. He is liable for negligence, whether under the agreement, or at common law. I propose, however, to deal with this aspect of the case as it was treated in argument, as a distinct ground of liability.

The second ground put forward in the statement of claim is that the plaintiff is entitled to recover because the amount paid by him to the bank was paid for and on account of the defendant, and at his request, such request being implied by law. Mr. Sharp contended that no request is implied in law where the plaintiff pays money in discharge of his own liability, which he has not assumed at the instance of the defendant. I agree. This proposition is a variant of the one given in Chitty on Contracts (8th ed. at p. 43) that a voluntary payment of the debt of another, without request, and under no legal liability or compulsion, gives no claim for the money paid against the person whose debt is discharged. I admit that there is a *vinculum juris* between the Bank and the shroff: but the legal liability, under which the compradore paid the bank was his own liability, and it was not assumed at the request of the shroff. This ground of liability therefore fails.

The third ground put forward was that the money was due as on an account stated.

On the evening in question the defendant's accounts being short by \$21,400, the cheque on which this amount had been paid being missing, the defendant wrote at the plaintiff's request a document which was translated by the plaintiff, as follows, "owes \$21,400 in bank notes." The defendant contended that the Chinese word translated "owes" meant in reality "short": and as in the case of the agreement, the evidence of Mr. Au Fung Chi was taken. The result seems to be that it may mean either.

The meaning which I must give to it must depend on the intention of the parties at the time it was signed.

The plaintiff says that after the search for the missing cheque as it was late and he had to hand in the money, the defendant agreed to give him a note of indebtedness for the amount. The defendant says that the plaintiff asked him to

write something on a piece of paper to show that there was a shortage of \$21,400, pending the finding of the cheque. He says also that there was a discussion as to the Chinese word to be used.

If this is an "account stated" in its strict sense, or an I.O.U. or promissory note as it was variously called, it would be capable of supporting the action independently of the agreement. If the defendant is liable on the agreement, this ground of liability is superfluous. If he is not liable on the agreement, then I should have to hold, that the defendant had made himself liable in spite of the agreement, by signing this document. Mr. Pollock's argument can be tested by the same process: he argued that the defendant had given this note because he had been negligent. But then, if he was not negligent he would not have been liable, and would not have given the note. In other words, if this is a good ground of liability, the defendant has made himself liable in spite of his not having been negligent.

It is therefore merely a question of fact, or rather, of appreciating the circumstances under which the document was signed and given to the plaintiff. It is not likely that the defendant in the hurry of the moment would there and then have admitted liability: nor do I think it likely that the plaintiff, who was then concerned only with the missing cheque, which would be his voucher for the payment of the money, would have insisted on such an admission. On his own evidence there might have been fraud on the part of another Chinese clerk and no negligence on the part of the defendant, in which case, as he says, he would not have considered the defendant to be liable. The most natural thing for him to do was to get an admission from the defendant that the money was short, leaving the question of liability to be subsequently determined, and such an admission the defendant could not avoid giving. Moreover, the reference in the document to "bank notes" seems of itself to show that it was a record of shortage in the bank notes in the defendant's custody.

I hold therefore that this third ground of liability also fails. As to both of the alternative grounds they do not amount to much more than other ways of looking at the facts. Either the defendant is liable under the agreement or he is not: or, the defendant is liable by reason of negligence or he is not. There are no other circumstances which could import liability, and which could form the basis of an independent action.

I come now to the question of negligence, which was specifically raised by the plaintiff in his counter-claim, and which is really the gist of the present action.

As I have already said, I am of opinion that the cheque did bear the "Paid Chop" on it, and also blue pencil marks which were not, but which purported to be, the German clerk's initials, and that they were in all probability sufficiently like them to deceive the defendant at first sight. Much stress was laid on what took place after the cheque had been paid. There certainly are signs that the shroff was not particularly careful as to the custody of the cheque which had then become his voucher for payment of the notes. He seems to have left it to his assistant. But the disappearance of the cheque has not much bearing on the actual negligence complained of. If it had been forthcoming it would have facilitated the discovery of the fraud, and might indeed have assisted the defendant in making some points clearer than they are. But I do not think this negligence, assuming it to be negligence, evidence of his alleged negligence in not discovering the fraud. If the defendant is liable he is liable irrespective of the disappearance of the cheque, and therefore the negligence in respect of it, if any, may be eliminated.

One point specially insisted on by Mr. Pollock was that the defendant in his cross-examination had laid stress on the importance of the "Paid Chop" being on the cheque: he suggested that the initials had been neglected, and I think he went to the extent of saying that the defendant had admitted that "he did not bother about the initials." I remember the point being made in the cross-examination, and I was under the impression while listening to the argument that the defendant

did say this. But on reading my notes I find that what I took down was this:-

"The chop is of great importance: my instructions were not to pay unless it was on. The important matter is the chop: the initials are the second. There are other initials on the cheque: those of the Portuguese clerk: his initials are not my business. I do not trouble about them, I go according to my instructions." I have no doubt from this that the question was put and answered as Mr. Pollock suggests: and also that at this stage of the cross-examination the defendant did emphasize the importance of the chop. But the question as to not troubling about the initials followed immediately after the reference to the initials of the Portuguese clerk, which are unimportant in the present case, and it is possible that he was thinking of them when he answered. But the witness does not appear to be a very intellectual person, and I cannot dissociate what he said at one point of his evidence from the general tenor of it. Throughout he did not deny, but rather emphasized the importance of the German clerk's, the blue pencil initials. In his examination in chief he said "my instructions were on paying cheques to be most particular that the initials of the foreign cashier and the 'Paid' stamp were on before paying. This cheque had these initials on; I knew it because I am accustomed to it." He added that Tai Sui Ho had brought the cheque in with five others, which is most probable; the others were initialled by the German cashier:—"I took it (i.e. the one for \$21,400) and examined it, and seeing that the initials and chop were on it, I entered it in my book, and counted out the notes;" and in cross-examination he said "when the plaintiff first asked me about the initials I was not uncertain. He asked me if the initials were on, I said 'yes, those are your instructions.'" On the whole, therefore, I think that the defendant treated this cheque as he did all others: looked to see if the usual blue pencil strokes were on it, and was deceived by the fraud.

But Mr. Pollock went further, he contended that it was the defendant's duty to see the German cashier and ask him if the supposed initials were in fact his: that he was bound to verify the initials in order to satisfy himself that they were genuine, if not in all cases, certainly in this, because the cheque was an unusually large one: and that this was all the more his duty because the initials were so difficult to identify. I cannot accept this argument: it would unduly delay the business of cashing cheques if the shroff were perpetually, without instructions, leaving his table and going to the German cashier's desk. On busy days, it would make it impossible to carry on. And if it was his duty specially because the cheque was large, his instructions should have provided for it: it had never occurred to the Bank or the compradores that such a precaution in the case of large cheques was necessary. This case must be judged in the same way as if the fraud had been committed in respect of a small cheque: and then the principal points of this argument fall to the ground. The fact is that the nature of the duty which is sought to be imposed upon the defendant is based upon what an exceptionally careful and vigilant and sharp clerk might perhaps do. Such a clerk might have suspected this fraud, might have interrupted the German clerk in his own work, and so might have discovered it. But on the other hand he might not. I cannot hold that the defendant was negligent because he did not do so. To be negligent presupposes the existence of some duty which has been neglected: there is no duty to be exceedingly sharp or clever: nor, where an elaborate scheme of check and counter-check has been devised can I hold that it was the duty of the defendant to have invented another check which had not been assigned to him: the existence of such a duty having only been thought of after a fraud had been committed.

In my opinion the shroff did exactly, no more and no less, what he was told to do. The fraud really resulted from the fatal facility with which the blue pencil initials, which were vital to the payment of the cheque, could be copied. Judgment must therefore be for defendant on the claim and also on the counter-claim with costs.

Monday, 27th November.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. A. G. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE.)

CLAIM FOR FOOD AND CLOTHING.

Gogger Singh sued Sowan Singh to recover the sum of \$30, being as to \$24 price of clothing supplied.

Mr. O. D. Thomson represented the plaintiff, and Mr. F. X. d'Almada e Castro appeared for the defendant.

Mr. Thomson stated that the plaintiff and defendant came from the same village in India. The defendant arrived in the Colony about nine months ago when he saw the plaintiff and asked if he would get him work. The plaintiff said he would try to do so, and in the meantime he supplied him with food and bought him a coat. Defendant recently got employment in Fenwick's as watchman, but had since refused to repay the amount due. On Saturday night the defendant visited one of the plaintiff's witnesses, and offered him a bribe of \$15 not to give evidence in this case; he further threatened that if he did he would punish him in some way.

Mr. Almada said the defence was a complete denial. Ever since the defendant's arrival in the Colony he had lived with two of his countrymen, but never with the plaintiff.

His Lordship, after hearing the evidence, gave judgment for the defendant with costs.

Wednesday, 29th November.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR FRANCIS PIGGOTT (CHIEF JUSTICE).

CLAIM FOR MONEY DEPOSITED.

Lo Yee Wo claimed from Kwong Kam Chuen the sum of \$2,000, money deposited.

Mr. H. G. Calthrop, instructed by Mr. O. D. Thomson, appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. M. W. Slade, instructed by Mr. C. E. H. Beavis (of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist) represented the defendant.

Mr. Calthrop stated that the plaintiff was a trader carrying on business at No. 46, Queen's Road East. He was suing the defendant for the return of a sum of \$2,000 which was deposited with the defendant in order to secure the performance of a building contract by one, Chau Ping Fong. There were no pleadings, and the contract had not been carried out. An affidavit was filed by the defendant in which he said the deposit agreement was altered, and the performance of the contract was guaranteed by a firm called the Tai Chan. The houses had been completed and the money was, therefore, returnable to the plaintiff. His Lordship would remember that when the case was coming on, an affidavit was put in by the defendant in which he said that these alterations in the agreement were not in his handwriting; he did not agree to the transfer at all. The circumstances under which the deposit was made were that in 1903 a contract was entered into between the Wing Wo firm and Kwong Kam Chun, one of the members thereof, for the building of some foreign houses on Island Lots 573 and 574. Kwong Kam Chun entered into a sub-contract for the building of these houses with the man the plaintiff originally guaranteed, Chau Ping Fong. When he entered into this contract the defendant wanted some security for the due performance of it, and Chau Ping Fong got the plaintiff, Lo Yee Wo, to deposit the sum of \$2,000. The contract was commenced by Chau, and some little work was done, but in the beginning of 1904 he, for certain reasons, had to go to China. He went to the plaintiff and took him the contract made with the defendant. The plaintiff then thought he would have to get somebody else to complete the contract owing to Chau Ping Fong's failure to do so. He received a letter from the defendant asking him to call about the matter, and that letter counsel would submit.

For the defence Mr. Slade stated that the contractor entered into a sub-contract with a man whom the plaintiff guaranteed to do the work for \$41,300. Whether that man discovered that he had made a bad bargain, or hadn't,

enough money, he failed to carry out the work. Towards the end of December, 1903, in answer to the defendant who was pressing him to complete, he wrote saying that he had not time to carry on. As the architects were at that time pressing, things being very much in arrear, the defendant engaged workmen in order to save the contract being cancelled, and set to work on the site. Meanwhile he endeavoured to get another sub-contractor and succeeded in getting hold of a firm called the Tai Cheong, who agreed to do the work. They did some work on the site, and for that work a certificate for \$5,000 was issued. At the beginning of May that money was paid to the defendant's firm, and it was arranged between him and the Tai Cheong Company that to save all complications regarding the issue of certificates, the latter company would be substituted as direct contractor with the owner of the land, and they were to receive the balance of the purchase money. The Tai Cheong carried on the work, completed the houses, and had not yet been paid. When the first sub-contractor failed to carry on the work it became the defendant's duty, in order to save his own contract, to get another contractor to continue it. He did some work himself, and set about getting another sub-contractor. What was the position with regard to the \$2,000? He submitted it was clear that the defendant was entitled to it. It was money which was put up by the plaintiff to guarantee the performance of the contract by Chau Ping Fong, and as soon as he failed to do the work the money became the property of the defendant. This appeared perfectly clear and distinct on the face of the documents, signed by Chau Ping Fong, which he would put in; these set out that if he failed to complete his contract, the \$2,000 became the property of the defendant. The defendant knowing this, was it conceivable that at the beginning of January he should have offered the whole of this money for the due performance of the contract? It was also extremely unlikely that such a subsequent arrangement as stated should have been come to between the parties. The defendant lost by the substitution of contractors, whereas had the work been continued by the first he would have made a profit of \$8,300. The defendant denied that any of the interviews of January, 1904, which the plaintiff alleged took place, ever occurred. The only times he had seen the plaintiff was when the \$2,000 was paid in the first instance, and again on another occasion in May or June of this year, when the plaintiff called on him and asked him to repay the \$2,000. He said he would not, and the plaintiff then asked him for a few hundred dollars. The whole of the negotiations between them were done through a broker. The Chinese did most of their important transactions through brokers, and the principals rarely came face to face.

After hearing the evidence his Lordship delivered judgment. He said he did not think it necessary for him to consider the case at any greater length. He had very grave doubts whether it could be necessary at all to call on the defendant to give evidence, except to prove documents, but the evidence of the plaintiff was so unsatisfactory that he could not accept it. It was rambling, and contained many statements which it was impossible to believe. He thought the defendant had shown that the contract was entered into, and there was no evidence before him to reject it. The point which made him pause was the question of the expert, and he wished to say it was rather curious that this case came immediately after the judgment he gave the other day on the question of expert evidence. This was precisely the sort of evidence that should be given, and if it had come on top of evidence at all reliable on the part of the plaintiff he should have had no hesitation. The expert evidence of writing, however, could not carry the case. Judgment would, therefore, be for the defendant with cost.

An American has been raiding the Chinese quarter in Manila, representing himself to be a detective. He arrested a man for selling lottery tickets, and released him "on bail" of \$50. To work the scheme he had a Chinese interpreter. When the Chinese found out the fraud, they sought out the interpreter, and beat him nearly to death.

Thursday, 30th November.

IN BANKRUPTCY.

BEFORE SIR F. T. PIGGOTT (CHIEF JUSTICE).

A LEPROUS BANKRUPT.

Leung Tsun Ting exparte Ma Tsun Shau. Mr. C. F. Dixon (of Mr. John Hastings' office) appeared on behalf of the debtor and asked his Lordship for directions as to how the bankrupt was to make out and submit to the Official Receiver his statement of affairs, and attend the public examination, as he was suffering from leprosy.

The Official Receiver, Mr. G. H. Wakeman, said the man was a leper, and he refused to allow him into his office.

His Lordship—What is the law with regard to lepers here?

Mr. Wakeman—They are generally deported. His Lordship—What action does the Sanitary Department generally take when a leper is discovered?

Mr. Dixon—The Captain Superintendent of Police applies for his deportation, I believe. The debtor has been examined by a doctor of the Civil Hospital, who certified that he was suffering from leprosy. The order for his deportation, however, has not yet been drawn up. This is a very large bankruptcy, the liabilities being from \$200,000 to \$300,000. I think it very desirable that a public examination should be held.

His Lordship—I cannot act very well without the advice of the health department.

Mr. Wakeman—I notified the Medical Officer of Health.

His Lordship—We had better send for Dr. Pearse. I will adjourn the case until his arrival.

On the doctor's arrival his Lordship explained the situation.

Dr. Pearse did not think there would be any danger in bringing the man into court as the disease was not a very infectious one.

His Lordship—Not very infectious?

Dr. Pearse—No, and he could be stood in the middle of the Court.

His Lordship—Would there be any danger to anybody in Court?

Dr. Pearse—Not as long as they did not come in contact with him. They would be safe if they stood a few feet distant.

His Lordship—Do you think it would be safe to bring him into a public court?

Dr. Pearse—Quite safe, my Lord.

His Lordship—Have we any power to bring a leper into Court?

Mr. Wakeman—Under Sub-section 7 of Section 17.

His Lordship—Supposing he writes, is there any danger in handling papers he has touched?

Dr. Pearse—Very little.

His Lordship—Could his statement of affairs not be taken down?

Mr. Dixon—It has already been prepared, but not signed. I am ready to file the statement unsigned.

His Lordship—That won't do. Is there no process of disinfecting?

Dr. Pearse—Oh yes, my Lord.

His Lordship—Well, there is no difficulty about that. He can sign.

Mr. Wakeman—There is the question of the commissioner he has got to be sworn before.

Mr. Dixon—I am not afraid of him, my Lord.

His Lordship—The question is as to the commissioner who will undertake the examination. You couldn't depute anybody to do it.

Mr. Wakeman—Anybody can do it.

His Lordship—It wouldn't be satisfactory unless you conducted.

Mr. Wakeman—I don't like to have the man in the office.

His Lordship (to Dr. Pearse)—Could you give us a ward in the hospital.

Dr. Pearse—I couldn't do it, but I have no doubt it could be arranged with Dr. Clark.

His Lordship adjourned the case and left the matter in the hands of Mr. Wakeman and Dr. Pearse. They are to consult and submit a scheme to him.

PUBLIC EXAMINATION.

Re the Wing Fung firm exparte Kruse and Co. and another.

Mr. Wakeman, Official Receiver, publicly examined the debtor.

Mr. J. Hays (of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master) represented a creditor.

Luk Chiu said he was the managing partner and sole owner of the Wing Fung firm of 63 Queen's Road Central, watchmakers and silversmiths. He commenced the business seven or eight years ago, when he had a capital of \$1,500. Besides that he raised a loan of \$1,500 from some friends to put into the business. He signed a promissory note when the money was advanced, but it has since been repaid. His business recently had not paid him. He last made a profit in the 29th year the amount of which was about \$1,500. He found in July 1904 that he was losing money as business was dull and he could not get any sales. He did not make up his books at the end of the last Chinese year, as he had no accounts to render. He never made up his accounts, and knew by a rough estimation that he made \$1,500 profit. He valued his stock in hand last Chinese year at \$10,000. Some of it had been paid for, and some had not. After he found he was insolvent he purchased more goods on credit; he did not add to his stock, but only got goods should a customer require them. Since December 1904 and August 1905 he purchased from Messrs. Ullmann and Co. \$3,400 worth of goods.

His Lordship—Were these goods bought for customers?

Debtor—No, I bought them for stock.

Later he bought \$2,000 worth of goods from Messrs. Kruse and Co.; these also went into stock. He sold goods both on cash and credit. In his statement he put his debts at \$2,116. He was acquainted with the people he had given credit to, but after he had given credit he never saw them again. Yu Nam Sam owed him \$1,494; this was a bad debt, as he could not find the man, who was a travelling trader. The boycott was partly responsible for his failure, as no one would purchase American goods.

Mr. Hays—Why don't you endeavour to do business instead of sitting down doing nothing?—Because my creditors want me to find security and I cannot.

Mr. Hays—Didn't you do a big business?—Not unless I gave credit. There was very little cash.

Mr. Hays—Isn't it better to do a little cash business than a large credit business?—You must be a business man to know about these things.

His Lordship adjourned the examination for a week.

AN IMPRISONED DEBTOR.

Re Choy Chung Li exparte Lo Tai Chan. Mr. P. W. Goldring (of Messrs. Bruton, Heit and Goldring) who represented the debtor, said that nothing had yet been definitely decided by the creditors in this case. It had been decided, however, that if a prosecution took place it should be conducted by the Crown. His client had been in prison a little over a month, and it was almost time something had been done. He would ask his Lordship to fix a day for him to renew his application for the prisoner's release.

His Lordship—You can move your motion next Thursday.

Mr. Goldring—Not before. I was going to ask for Saturday morning.

His Lordship—There is no reason for that. Negotiations are going on with the creditors.

Mr. Goldring—Are they, my Lord? There appears to be little sign of it.

His Lordship—You can make the application next Thursday, and notice will be given to all the parties interested.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. A. G. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE).

A DISPUTED BALANCE.

Wing Shing Cheong sued Yuen Wo and others to recover the sum of \$584.83, balance due on account of goods supplied.

Mr. R. Harding (of Messrs. Ewens, Harston and Harding) appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. R. A. Harding for the defendant.

Mr. R. Harding stated that the defendants had paid into Court the sum of \$370.82 on account of the claim, and \$24.20 costs. The

difference between the amount paid in and the amount claimed was about \$210.

This balance, according to the books of the plaintiff, had been credited to the defendant, and the receipts he held bore the signature of one, Lau Tim, the plaintiff's shroff.

The plaintiff contended that the signature on the receipts was not Lau Tim's, but his Lordship held that it was.

Mr. R. Harding said if his Lordship concluded that the signature was Lau Tim's, he would withdraw.

His Lordship.—The plaintiff had better take the money in Court, but minus the question of costs.

Mr. R. A. Harding asked that the plaintiff be charged for particulars, as he brought an action for \$200 more than was owing.

His Lordship—You have books of your own haven't you?

Mr. R. A. Harding—But we had a fire in the shop, my Lord.

His Lordship—Oh! Oh! I'm sorry for that.

Mr. R. A. Harding—We couldn't possibly pay into court \$200 more than we owed without particulars, as originally their claim was \$200 less than at present.

His Lordship—Well, I think Mr. R. Harding must pay your costs.

Mr. R. A. Harding—I would also ask your Lordship that they pay the \$12 for particulars.

His Lordship—I will split the difference. Each side will pay \$6.

His Lordship—There will be judgment for the plaintiff for the money paid in, and costs up to the time of payment in, less \$6 for particulars. Also judgment for the defendant and costs from the time of paying in, costs to be settled by the Registrar.

LICENSING SESSIONS.

The adjourned annual meeting of Justices of the Peace for licensing purposes was held on the 30th November, at the Magistracy. Mr. F. A. Hazelton presided and the other Justices present were: Rev. C. H. Hickling, Messrs. R. H. Craig, T. F. Hough, C. D. Melbourne, T. F. Hanmer, Lyons (deputy superintendent), and E. Shellim. Three applications were submitted to the meeting.

The first was from Lius Comar, of 63 Des Vœux Road, for an adjunct license.

The Chairman said there was no police objection, and the application was granted.

H. Peich applied on behalf of Mr. Weismann of Weismann's Tiffin Rooms, 34 Queen's Road, Central, for an adjunct license. The Chairman explained that the premises were all under one roof, and the license was granted.

Mr. Sharp, K.C., instructed by Mr. H. W. Looker, appeared in support of the application from Mr. D. Dorabjee, of the King Edward Hotel, for a license in respect of the two houses, 3 and 5 Des Vœux Road. He explained that the two houses were separated by a side street, Ice House Street, and the license asked was a publican's license. In Hongkong they had fewer licences than were recognised in England. Such a licence was defined as a license to keep an inn or a public house, and he was asking for a license for a hotel or an inn. They said the King Edward Hotel was an inn within the meaning of the Ordinance and that was covered by the terms of the license. The question before the Justices was a very simple one. Was the King Edward Hotel one or two inns? It was clearly one inn. Now what was an inn? It had been defined in many ways as a place adapted for travellers, where they could procure board and lodging. It might consist of several buildings so long as they are under one control. In the King Edward Hotel they had only the constituents of one inn. There was only one dining-room, one kitchen, one set of common rooms, and only one office for the conduct of the establishment—all these to be in the new building. No 3, the old building, will be simply an annexe, and will consist mainly of bedrooms. The front portion, which was now occupied as a bar, was already let to a bank. After pointing out that it was not necessary that a hotel or an inn should consist of only one house, he contended that it was only necessary that the houses should approximate and be under one control and stated that the present application was for a license to

keep an inn in the two houses mentioned. It was unnecessary to speak of the merits of the applicant, who was known to them all. The number of bars would not be increased. If the hotel were held to be two houses, there would follow the absurd result that Mr. Dorabjee would be paying for the license twice the amount of that for the Hongkong Hotel, which was so much larger. Two licenses could not be held by the same person.

The Justices considered the application in private and after a lengthy deliberation agreed to grant the license.

CANTON.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

23rd November.

BOGUE FORTS.

The number of soldiers stationed at the Bogue forts having been reduced 75 per cent., Admiral Li-Tsun has decided to establish a police force there. He has mustered 130 men, and three stations are to be established on the 27th inst. One will be situated at the Bogue forts' entrance and the other two will be located to the West and East of the Central station.

FACTS ARE FACTS, OR SEEING IS BELIEVING.

An extraordinary joss story is the subject of public comment here. Some time ago Viceroy Shum ordered the seizure of a certain temple in the City and sent to the Mint a number of bronze articles to be coined into money. A man, surnamed Fong, living in the Sap-pat-po, hearing that a certain joss which he particularly revered was to be melted down, sent a petition to the authorities offering 300 taels for the release of the joss in question. His request was granted and the image was triumphantly borne to his residence. He put it in the place of honour and prayed the liberated joss to inspire him in the choice of the characters he was going to buy in the Shan-Piu lottery. Fong subsequently won a big prize! During the night Fong had a dream in which the joss appeared to him surrounded by hundreds of genii; the room was brightly illuminated and a conversation between the dreamer and the joss followed. The joss thanked Fong for his devotion and told him that such acts being meritorious he had rewarded him by pointing out to him the winning characters of the Shan-Piu lottery. Fong intimated that he would be thankful if the joss would suggest to him next what number to buy in the Macao lottery. The joss, being over 1,000 years old, knew nothing about Macao and its lotteries and expressed his regret at being unable to give him a tip. At the close of the conversation the joss stated that a private house in the Sap-pat-po was not quite the right place for a joss of his standing and expressed a desire to be lodged in more suitable quarters and suggested that a well-lighted corner in a temple would be just the place required. Fong promised to attend to the matter and enthroned the joss on a specially made pedestal in a popular temple in the walled city. The above story of Fong's luck is drawing vast crowds of devotees towards the joss shrine and the temple people are reaping quite a harvest. I am sorry I am debarred from being able to consult him, not being a Chinaman, or I would ask a question or two about the high exchange prevailing.

TO ACQUIRE KNOWLEDGE.

It is reported that forty members of the Kwangtung gentry are about to proceed to Japan on a visit.

THE HA-CHAN-TONG QUESTION.

Fuk Chuen and Li-Yau-Sing having offered large sums for the release of the Ha-Chan-Tong sing-song houses, the Sin-Hau-Kuk has instructed them to make proper tenders and to deposit with the authorities a cash bond of Tls. 5,000 as a guarantee of good faith. The privilege of re-opening the above quarters will be given to the highest bidder. The bond deposited will be returned to the unsuccessful candidates.

"MADE IN CHINA."

The Boycott committee have rented a large house for the purpose of mustering therein samples of all sorts of foreign made goods and thus create a sort of museum where the exhibits

might be studied by the public. The object of this is to encourage the people to manufacture the articles themselves and thus prevent China's wealth from flowing out of the country.

25th November.

THE CANTON-HANKOW RAILWAY DIRECTORATE.

Taotai Wong Tsang Ting, of the Canton-Hankow railway directorate, has resigned his post and is returning to Shanghai. His successor has not yet been appointed.

A CHINESE "BRITISH" FIRM.

A man surnamed Fung recently started a company in Ping-chow (Namhoi district) called the Yee Wo On and hung up a signboard showing that the concern was British. The last Namhoi magistrate, Woo Ming Poon, closed the company's offices under the plea that Fung could not carry on business in the interior under a foreign signboard. On the other hand a complaint had been lodged with the Namhoi against Fung for infringing the trade-mark ordinance by using an imitation of the trade-mark (flower-basket) belonging to a Japanese firm. The complaint was sent to the Namhoi by the Japanese Consul in Hongkong, who requested that an investigation should be made into the matter. Fung petitioned the Chamber of Commerce pointing out that the trade-mark in question was used by him before same was registered by the Japanese. The Viceroy says Fung might be right to use the trade-mark, but he had no business to use a foreign kong name.

BOYCOTT PICTURES CONDEMNED.

Viceroy Shum having received a despatch from the American Consul General asking him to suppress a boycott newspaper, which is published here three times a month, instructed the Poon-Yu to deal with it. The Poon-Yu wrote to the Boycott committee ordering them to stop publication. The Boycott committee replied that the paper is not edited under their auspices. The paper referred to is probably the She-she-Hua-pao (illustrated magazine) which recently gave pictures of the drowning of a Chinese compradore who was thrown over the Shameen bridge by American sailors. It has also had boycott cartoons.

CHINESE TIDE WAITERS.

Two Chinese tidewaiters, surnamed Chu and Ng, belonging to the Custom's staff at Swatow, have been denounced by a merchant and are accused of having accepted bribes from smugglers. Both men have been arrested and will be sent to Canton for trial.

LAND OWNER'S DEEDS.

In order to prevent complications arising in the matter of land purchases made by foreigners (merchants or missionaries), the Viceroys of Liang-Kiang and Viceroy Shum have mutually agreed that in future purchasers applying to be registered as owners shall produce the red deeds (original deeds already stamped) which they receive from the seller, together with the white deeds (deeds of sale). Viceroy Shum has instructed different magistrates under his jurisdiction and the Bureau of Foreign Affairs to place this new regulation on record.

HABOUR POLICE.

The Sin-hau-kuk have agreed to advance taels 100,000 towards the expenses for policing the harbour. This sum will be repaid from the receipts of the new tax which will be imposed. Commodore Wong Pui-Chung has been appointed to look after this department.

BOYCOTT DEPUTATION TO HONGKONG.

On the 28th inst. the Boycott committee held a meeting to decide how to answer the letter from the American merchants at the last Conference. The committee have decided to send Au Tat Po, Ho sim-Chuen, Wong-Fui Man and Ho Chap Man to Hongkong to consult with leading merchants there and to take advice from a solicitor. Telegrams will be sent to the Shanghai committee and to friends in America on the matter and then a reply will be drafted and sent to the American merchants. The party left for Hongkong yesterday morning and are expected to return here on Monday.

27th November.

CHECKING COPPER MINTING.

It is reported that the Board of Revenue has despatched to all the Viceroys an order to temporarily suspend the coining of copper cents and

to send the Board a detailed report giving the value of the coins in circulation in each province, and the yearly demand for same. The Board of Revenue limits the future output of these copper coins to one mill on per day in Kwangtung, Kwangsi, and Hupeh provinces; to 600,000 in Chihli; and to 30,000 in the other provinces.

QUEER TARGET PRACTICE.

The annual Target Shooting Practice for the Banner Troops begins to-day. The range is about a mile in length. The shooting is done from the plain towards the slope of a mountain, at the foot of which targets are placed. Various guns are used. The arms range from the modern Krupp mountain gun to the ancient muzzle-loaders that adorn the city walls. Gingalls supported by two men are also used; the long barrel of the latter enables the men to shoot much more accurately than might be supposed. Great crowds of Chinese gather about in the neighbourhood and it is amusing to witness the promptitude with which the cannon balls are picked up on the mountain side after each volley is fired, the men hiding themselves behind huge boulders during the shooting intervals. The bouquet of the show, however, is the firing of the old cannon with the old stone balls. These latter may be seen rolling back, down the mountain slope, and the extraordinary event of a cannon ball knocking the target down from the rear may be witnessed! As long as Chinese continue to amuse themselves in this fashion, and keep up their bow and arrow manœuvres, the Yellow Peril need not be the white man's nightmare.

28th November.

THE FANTAN MONOPOLY.

Viceroy Shum has recently issued an order prohibiting the opening of any new fantan shops. There are already five monopolists, who together pay \$1,330,000 a year; and recoup themselves from the rents of three hundred fantan shops. The game is not a very ancient one. The Jesuit mathematicians of Peking and Kang-Hi's reign are credited with having invented the game for the amusement of the inmates of the Imperial Palace. Rents and license fees are reckoned at daily rates and are paid daily for obvious reasons. It is not an easy matter for the licensee to open a new shop. Palm oil must be liberally administered to the influential members of the locality and a meeting called to settle matters with the Kai-Fong (the people of the street enclosed within two gates.) Any attempt to evade this squeeze is soon punished. The city fathers have fire hose drill opposite the offending shop, thus preventing the approach of clients; or they take up the pavement at the door to clean the drains. The stuff excavated is piled on each side of the entrance, and the stink is sufficient to scare away even a Chinaman. A third method is to send three or four men to take up all the room at each table, to make insignificant bets, and thus "freeze out" more profitable clients. They will even post a man at the door to warn approaching visitors that it is a house of bad luck, in which it is impossible to win. Failing these dodges, they close the Kai-fong gates, stopping all traffic through the street. Thus the Chinese have discovered a very effective "local option" for themselves.

MORE EXECUTIONS.

Six robbers who were recently extradited from Hongkong were executed on the 27th by order of Viceroy Shum. The men were beheaded at the usual place, the Potters' Field of Canton.

VICEROY'S PRIVATE RESIDENCE.

Viceroy Shum intends to make use of the ex-Governor's Yamen as a private residence. Geomancers have been consulted with regard to the Fung-Shui of the premises.

PLAQUE IN CANTON.

It is reported that three servant-girls of the Hu family in Chung Sui Ho, in the new walled City of Canton, have suddenly died of bubonic plague within a few days. It is said that the disease gained so rapid a hold on the victims that they died before medical assistance could be sent for. The people anticipate a strong epidemic after the Chinese New Year owing to the warm weather prevailing this winter.

The new walled city has always been a hotbed for plague. Numerous cases have occurred in the neighbourhood of the Ching-Hoi-Mun

and one family alone is known to have lost as many as fourteen people in one month during the epidemic of 1903.

Nov. 29th.

CHINESE VICE-ADMIRAL BANISHED.

Chan Sheung Sun, ex Vice-Admiral, who was put in prison some time ago under very serious charges, has now been sentenced to banishment. The Admiral is to be escorted by braves to the frontiers of China, and his term of banishment will date from the day of his arrival there.

THE BOYCOTT.

Two members of the boycott committee who recently went to Hongkong to consult with Dr. Ho-Kai and Mr. Tso, solicitors, with regard to the drafting of a suitable reply to the letter received from the American representatives, have returned to Canton. The other members of the committee have been requested to go down to Hongkong to attend a meeting at which the leading American merchants will be present.

It is said that Dr. Ho-Kai's and Mr. Tso's services have been retained to watch proceedings on behalf of the Chinese members. The members of the committee held the opinion that the people would not be satisfied with any amendments to the existing American exclusion treaty act. To satisfy the people America must repeal the act entirely. It was decided to send a telegram to that effect to Hongkong and to request Ho Wah-tong to communicate this reply to the American merchants. Shanghai and San Francisco will likewise be advised of the decision by cable.

[We have made enquiries, and hear that there is not to be any such meeting in Hongkong: —Ed.]

NIGHT PAWNSHOPS.

The officials have discovered that the pawnshops both in the old and in the new walled city have been in the habit of accepting articles at night, by retaining 10 per cent. on the sum agreed upon. This custom enables thieves who commit late robberies to dispose of stolen goods. The late hour business has been going on for years. The officials intend to prohibit such business in the future, and the pawnshops will be ordered to close up at sunset. The pawnshop-keepers of the two walled cities have requested their confreres in the suburbs to send a joint petition to the Sin-Hau-Kuk to obtain permission to carry on business at night as hitherto. The suburban pawnshops close their businesses at 8 p.m.; they consequently decline to join in the petition.

ANOTHER SEIZURE

On the 24th inst. the Nam-Hoi Magistrate received instructions to seize a house situated in Ying-Hing Lane, near the Tai Ping-Gate, which is occupied by a man surnamed Shum. The property is said to belong to Chow-Tit-Sai and is worth about Tls. 3,000.

NEWS FROM LINCHOW.

The latest news from Linchow is to the effect that 23 men have been arrested, and that the colonel commanding the soldiers there is likely to lose his head on account of negligence, as it is said that he had only 23 untrained men under his orders at the time of the trouble.

MACAO.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

27th November.
AUCTION SALE OF VALUABLE LEASEHOLD PROPERTY.

On Thursday last, by order of the Court, the property of the late Sr. Juan Lecaroz, known as San-Fu-Yuen, was put up for sale. The property was valued at \$59,000. There were many Chinese bidders for the property, but the sale was postponed, as it is supposed that the property is wanted by the Government for the new Gaol. The sale was stopped pending the receipt of a telegraphic reply from the Lisbon Government whether the property should or should not be retained by the Government. Nothing further is known up to the time of writing.

RESTAURANTS AND BAKERIES.

The restaurants and bakeries here seem to need sanitary inspection. I understand that our worthy Colonial Surgeon, Dr. Espectação is going to make a general report as to the sanitary requirements that are needed in these

restaurants, bakeries and other shops where eatables are retailed for the public consumption. Dr. Espectação will confer a boon on the people of Macao by compelling these places to be kept clean. I would also suggest his going a little further by giving his attention to the wines, liquors and other spirits that are generally sold in these restaurants and bars, where the soldiers go to for their drinks; and to the "fresh" milk that is sold by the Chinese dairy men.

A MISSIONARY NUISANCE.

Of late some missionaries, whose nationality is unknown to me, have been going round the city playing concertinas in public squares and streets to attract attention, and for the past few nights they have been preaching against the Catholic schools, etc. This abuse on the part of these men should be stopped at once and, although all religions are equally protected, these men should not be allowed to continue in abusive proceedings in a city where the Roman Catholic faith is so largely professed.

EARTHQUAKES.

The shocks continue to come about five or six times a day since my last.

CONDE LE SENNA FERNANDES.

I regret to have to report that this gentleman, who is well-known in Hongkong and Shanghai, where he has many friends, is very ill.

SHANGHAI STATISTICS.

Statistics are seldom funny, even if we are acute enough to appreciate Mr. Thiers' definition of them as stating mathematically what the compiler does not know. But an exception will perhaps, be made in the case of the summary issued by the Shanghai Municipal Council, after the foreign census just taken, of the "rank, profession and occupation of the male population." A Shanghai lecturer, addressing the younger males of the northern port, quoted Richard de Gallienne's saying that "somewhere in heaven stands a great stencil, and at every sweep of the cosmic brush a million dandies are born, as like each other as collars in a box." The implication is not supported by the statistics already mentioned, which, while including almost every other rank, profession or occupation, make no note of dandies. There are, for instance, 118 Hospital Patients, which, under the classification, suggests malingering. There are 101 Bankers' Staff, 581 Clerks and 629 Mercantile Assistants. There is only one Specialist, and neither the Overseer nor the Acting Secretary, who seem to have modestly left themselves out of the list, gratify our natural curiosity as to his speciality. There is only one Soldier, one Straw Braid Inspector, one Tattooer (there Hongkong beats Shanghai, and might spare some on demand) one Millwright, one Horse Trainer, one Geologist (do we spell it with a K, m'Lud?) one Farrier, one Dairy Keeper, one "Actors and Showmen," one Analyst and one Assayer. These may be taken as indicating openings for competition. Out of the Shanghai's 5,728 working foreign males, 200 are Engineers or Boilermakers, 153 Marine Officers, 533 Merchants, 112 Police (exclusive of 172 Indian Police), 187 Public Officers (including Customs) 144 Sailors, 99 Servants (who presumably "only stand and wait") 286 Storekeepers and Assistants, 70 Students, 206 Watchmen, and 144 "undefined." "Much sympathy will be felt," as obituary writers say, when it is mentioned that our neighbours are afflicted with 14 Tax Collectors, two Undertakers, 49 Unemployed, 8 Priests, 4 Plumbers, 66 Musicians (to say nothing of 3 Professors of Music and 4 Piano Tuners) 74 Missionaries, 12 Dentists, 4 Masseurs and 46 Medical Practitioners. There are 32 Insurance Agents, 70 Hairdressers and Barbers, and six Fortune Tellers. Three gentlemen described themselves as Financiers. There are 54 Consular Officials, cheek by jowl with 88 Commission Agents. There is one Clergyman or Minister to every Butcher, and one to spare. The place bristles with Brokers, to the number of three score and ten. The chit system cannot give much trouble, since there are only three Bill Collectors; but it may be that 24 Barristers and Solicitors intimidate defaulters. There are seventeen Artists, and 42 Journalists, but this risk is covered by 51 Jailers and Warders. It is rather curious that in such a busy cosmopolitan place there should

be only two Interpreters and three Translators. There are two Veterinarians. The native population includes 212,517 males, 118,432 females, and 121,767 children. This total (452,716) has nearly doubled the total of ten years ago.

JAPAN AND COREA.

THE NEW AGREEMENT.

The *Asahi* publishes the following from its Seoul correspondent as the substance of the new Treaty agreed upon and signed at Seoul between Japan and Corea:—

1.—The Japanese Government, through the Foreign Office at Tokyo, will take charge of and direct the foreign affairs of Corea, and existing Japanese Ministers and Consuls will represent Corean interests abroad.

2.—The Japanese Government will take upon itself the duty of carrying out the existing Treaties between Corea and foreign countries; and Corea without the intermediary of Japan will not enter upon any Treaty or Agreement with any foreign country.

3.—(a) The Japanese Government will appoint a Regent as its representative in Corea, who will remain in Seoul, with the prerogative of seeing the Emperor of Corea in person.

(b) The Japanese Government will appoint its Commissioners to every Corean open port and other place where the presence of such Commissioners is considered necessary. These Commissioners will take charge of affairs hitherto conducted by Japanese Consuls and all other affairs necessary for the execution of the existing Treaties.

4.—All the existing Treaties and Agreements between Japan and Corea, within limits not prejudicial to the provisions of the Treaty, will remain in force.

5.—The Japanese Government guarantees the security and will respect the dignity of the Corean Imperial House.

It is believed in Tokyo that the new Japanese-Corean Treaty will be ratified by the Emperor in a few days and simultaneously published in Tokyo and Seoul at the end of this month.

ANTI-OPIUM PILLS.

Some time ago, Viceroy Chang Chi-tung sent to the Chinese Minister in England directions to ascertain if there was any drug which would act as an antedote to the craving for opium, and the Minister appears to have been successful in finding some which have been made into a form of a pill called the *Chi-chiang-wan* or "Strong Determination Pill," which has now been sent to Peking for sale. From an advertisement setting forth its merits we learn:—"This pill is made by order of Chang, Junior Guardian of the Heir Apparent, Button of first grade, and Viceroy of Hu-Kuang. The evil of opium is as harmful as that of floods, and wild beasts, or even more. During the reign of Yao and Shun (Emperors 2357-2255 and 2255-2205) the calamity of flood lasted only nine years, and the danger of beasts was but at Yintu. Now, the poison of opium lasts more than one hundred years and extends to twenty-two provinces. The victims are too numerous to count and it becomes worse every day, until we know not what will be the result. Degenerating the ability of men, weakening the spirit of soldiers and wasting the people's money, this evil is responsible for the suffering condition of China. The loss of money is a small matter; but both civil and military officials who once get into the habit of smoking become weak and degenerate. Time and money spent are nothing, education and experience hardly thought of. After a few score of years, will not the 400 millions in China all become semi-human and semi-devil monsters? With this pill, which is compounded of drugs produced by our Minister in England and America, hundreds of smokers in Hupeh have been cured of the cursed habit, and if later on the strict regulations applied to civilian smokers they will find themselves in a sorry plight. It is the interest of all therefore to cure themselves forthwith."

INCURIOUS CHINA.

The ignorance of and want of curiosity about their own country on the part of Chinese of good position and birth is a fact which has often surprised foreigners in their reflections on and studies of China and her people, but the until recent lack of facilities of communication has been generally blamed for this absence of interest and knowledge. Now that the country is being opened up, however, no change is noticeable in this indifference, and whenever we have discussed the question of other provinces with Chinese friends we have invariably met with a scarcely veiled contempt concerning them, and at least absolute uninterest as to the characteristics, needs, or opportunities offered by other parts of the country. Needless to say if this is the attitude and result in regard to their own country, the majority of Chinese are still more ignorant and indifferent to the conditions of other countries, and the fact has at last made itself apparent to the officials interested in the extension of China's trade, and the Board of Commerce has lately issued a very sensible notice to all the provinces advocating the turning over of a new leaf in the matter. The Board advocates the immediate study first of the geographical and commercial conditions, with the climate and needs of the people in the Chinese empire, and points out the disadvantage of the people of one prefecture having no knowledge even as to how those in the next prefecture live. The Board urges the viceroys and governors in all provinces to instruct the merchants through the agency of the chambers of commerce to remedy this state of things and persuade the people to travel about their own country and learn something about its climate and trade and customs, and also to go abroad and thus gain experience which may be turned to account in trade development. This is sound advice and something which is greatly needed in China, but the result of it will be prospective rather than immediate. It is the next generation which is going to benefit by the steps being now guardedly taken by China's advanced officials in the direction of the tree of knowledge. The schools springing up in all provinces in which some knowledge of the true place occupied by China in the world will gradually replace the old-time belief that that she is the pivot of creation, will eventually bear fruit, if not in a greater humility at least in the power to realise in some degree the claims of others and the ways in which China can best advance the interests of her own people and profit by, instead of railing against her next door neighbour. The advice now given by the Board may not lead the father to forsake his native counting house but it may prompt him to send his son to school to learn "how these things can be," or to travel maybe through the length and breadth of the land. But of the two it is perhaps easier for the Chinese student of things in general to travel and investigate commercial questions abroad than in his own country where conservatism and custom block him at every turn, and where no knowledge or information can be gleaned untaxed either by an elastic obligation, in kind, or in coin.—*Peking Times*.

THE KIUKIANG-NANCHANG RAILWAY.

In regard to the above Railway we are informed that a Hunanese by the name of Li with three others has contracted for the construction of 60 li of this line. The main terms of the contract appear to be that the contractors undertake to construct a section of the line of the length above stated, to be located by the said Railway Office after a survey and an estimate of the same have been made. The work shall be carried out in accordance with the cost and the time stipulated by the Railway Office, and all expenditures in connection therewith shall first be paid by the contractors and afterwards regarded as a loan to the Railway with interest at the rate of 4 per cent per annum, beginning from the lapse of three months after the commencement of work. It is stated that no adverse criticism has been made against the conclusion of this contract.—*China Gazette*.

THE OPENING OF THE SHANGHAI-NANKING RAILWAY.

The *N.C. Daily News* of Nov. 20 gives a very full report of this important event, from which we take the following extracts.

"It was only in April last year that H.E. Sheng Kungpao, as Director-General of Railways in this province, cut the first sod of the railway which, by linking up the great port of Shanghai with the great southern capital of China, is destined to be, though comparatively short, one of the most important of the many trunk lines now to be constructed throughout the Empire. Not much has been heard of the progress of the work during those intervening eighteen months, but instead of talking there has been doing, with the result that the completion of the building is already in sight. The opening of a short section of twelve miles on Saturday [Nov. 18] is mainly significant because it reveals that the sections beyond are all well advanced, and the sanguine on the Board of Directors are hoping to see the service through to Soochow in the Spring and perhaps to Nanking in the Autumn. Mr. Shen Tuan-ho's desires may have run away with his belief a little at Saturday's auspicious function, but it is certainly true that it will be possible, unless most unforeseen events occur, to travel by train to Nanking very much sooner than most foreigners had anticipated."

"Commencing at a moderate rate, the train steamed past the outskirts of Shanghai, now stretching so far into the county, past the new creek bridge at the end of Markham Road, past the factories and filatures, into green ricefields, broken by grave mounds and clustered trees hiding the homes of the workers dotted about the fields or lining up to see the newest wonder. It was noticeable that there were no signal posts by the railside, but at about every 100 yards a Chinese bearing a dragon flag was stationed, his function apparently being to warn any too curious of his countrymen against wandering on to the metals and meeting the fate of Stephenson's 'coo.' The track is a single one at present but the embankment has been made up, perhaps in readiness for a future duplication. It runs to Naziang in almost a straight line, with practically no gradient, and the only serious natural obstacle encountered in this part of the line was the largish creek just this side of Naziang. The smaller creeks were usually filled in, or where the stream was required for irrigation purposes, culverted. There is to be one intervening station at Chonju, and here the pace was reduced almost to stopping, but over a considerable distance a speed of 42 miles per hour was attained. Naziang was reached in just over half-an-hour."

Lord Li's inaugural speech was thus translated:

"Gentlemen,—In the unavoidable absence of the Director-General, H. E. Sheng Kungpao, who has gone North for inspection of the Yellow River Bridge of the Ching-Han Railway, the construction of which has just been completed, the honour has devolved on me to preside in his place at this opening ceremony for the first section between Shanghai and Naziang of the Shanghai-Nanking Railway, and I am greatly pleased to see the number of foreign and Chinese guests who have graciously come to take part in the celebration. On this occasion I wish to say a few words to you, gentlemen. In my opinion, the advantage of a railway lies in its offering intercommunication between land and sea, so that in Europe and America, in all large commercial ports where shipping congregates, there you find the starting points of railways, of which London in England and New York in America, are notable examples. In China, Shanghai is the best situated seaport in the continent of Asia. Ships coming from the Pacific, Atlantic, and Indian Oceans to China all take Shanghai as the principal rendezvous. Its natural advantages and its large volume of trade can almost be compared with those enjoyed by London and New York, while in point of free navigation all the year round, it is equal to the above-named places, and is incomparably superior to all the other maritime ports, and the Yangtze ports in China. Therefore, in discussing the economic advantages of railways in China, we must take

Shanghai as the most important place, for it is an emporium which receives the commodities carried by steamers from various countries and distributes them into the interior. The position it occupies is, therefore, that of communication between China and foreign countries, which compared with the other railways giving only inter-communication within the Empire, confers advantages much greater and surer. Hence, the importance of the Shanghai-Nanking Railway is greater than that of other railways. Cavillers have, however, found objections in this railway in its running parallel to the river course, but I am sure they will see the fallacy of their views in a very short time. There have been no railways in China until now. It was only in the first year of Kwang Hsu that a proposal to start railway enterprises was first presented to the Throne. But at that time, on account of the ice of ignorance not having been broken, much opposition was evinced against such an undertaking, so that although a line had been previously built from Shanghai to Woosung by some foreigners, China subsequently bought it over and consigned it into disuse. It was until the time when the Marquis Li Hung Chang opened the Kaiping mines that a line was started from Tangshan, the first ever built by China herself. Then followed such lines as the Tientsin-Shanhaikuan Railway, the Peking-Hankow Railway, most of which, on account of the length of the distance traversed and the enormous amount of capital involved, were built from foreign loans. This was not necessarily because of the poverty of China, but because of the fact that the many advantages of railway undertakings were not then generally known to the people, who were, therefore, reluctant to put up their private capital for the promotion of a public measure. Now the nations of the world all regard railways as a sign of progress in civilisation. In looking at their standards of progress we find that the denser the network of railways in a country, the more wealthy and powerful has that country become. Of late the literati and officials of China have somewhat awakened to this fact. In the different provinces movements to build railways follow one after another. But while the benefits of railways are enormous, the construction, of a line, whether with self-raised or borrowed capital, in its many ramifications, cannot be accomplished by single individual efforts. Thus for the early opening of this first section of the Shanghai-Nanking Railway credit is due to the High Provincial authorities of Kiangsu, H. E. Yuan Taotai, the Shanghai and Paoshan magistrates, and the officials of the Land Purchasing Department in matters concerning land purchases and protection, and to the members of the Board of Commissioners and the Engineer-in-Chief and his staff for the efficiency and speed of the construction work; while for the harmonious relationship and hearty co-operation, without which success is impossible, we owe not a little to the representatives of the British and Chinese Corporation who are the right men in the right place. (Hear, hear.) To-day's opening of this first section is the precursor of the extension of the line to Soochow and Wusieh next year, and afterwards to Changchou and Chinkiang, thence finally connecting Nanking. Wherever this line will reach there it will prove a convenience to the travelling public, and a rapid means of transit for commodities, while it will also give impetus to the development of native products. No limit can I place to the possibilities of this railway for the enrichment of this country. On the present and prospective achievements of this railway I can well offer congratulations to China, co gratulations to the Kiangsu province, and congratulations to our honoured guests to-day. With these remarks I beg to propose success to the Shanghai-Nanking Railway."

Taotai Shen Tun-ho said the line would work to Soochow next year, and be complete the year after. He went on:—"Before the opening of the Lu-Han Railway, the steamers plying in the Yangtze River were less than fifty in number in a year, since which the number had increased by leaps and bounds to over one hundred, while the amount of cargo carried also increased proportionally. This proved conclusively the advantages conferred by railways in connecting

inland places with waterways, which tended to develop the natural resources of the country and to encourage native industries. But in regard to this railway, people were dubious of the possibility of its making profits, in view of its running parallel to the river and its meeting the keen competition of the large number of steamers and steam launches. Against this view, he would cite the instance of the Canton-Samshui line, which also had the lively competition of water-borne trade in the West River, but which entirely falsified such predictions, by the results of its first year's operation, which netted no less a sum than about \$700,000 for a line of only 30 miles in distance, with a tendency to further considerable increases. Now since the Shanghai-Nanking Railway covered six times the distance of the Samshui line, its possibilities could be well imagined." (Applause.)

Mr. W. J. Gresson also acknowledged the toast on behalf of the British and Chinese Corporation, Ltd. He said: "Your Excellency, Mr. Shen Tun-ho and gentlemen, negotiations were entered into some years ago by the British and Chinese Corporation to build this line in conjunction with the Imperial Chinese Railway Administration, but for various causes the construction was delayed. However, on the 25th of April last the first sod was cut by H. E. Sheng Kungpao, and since then progress has been rapid, with the result that we have been able to-day to open this section. It appears to me that this institution of the linking of Shanghai with the large towns in its neighbourhood by railway is a matter of immense everyday importance to those interested in the welfare of Shanghai, foreigners and Chinese alike. It is conceivable that at no very distant date Shanghai will have overland railway communication with all the principal cities of the Empire and that the vast interior districts will be opened up to trade. Doubtless new industries will be started in consequence, and the result will be that the trade of the country will be very largely increased. In that development, I think, Shanghai may be trusted to look well after itself and see that it derives its share of benefit. Mr. Shen Tun-ho has referred in very kindly terms to those associated with him in the construction of this railway, and on their behalf I thank him, and you, gentlemen. It is the wish of the British and Chinese Corporation to live up to the spirit of its contract and to provide China with a railway of the most modern type at the most reasonable cost that it can be done conformably with those aims. To that end we have engaged a most efficient engineer-in-chief and staff of engineers, and have the benefit of the advice of one of the most prominent consulting engineers in the world (Sir John Wolff Barry). I am sure that when the railway is completed, it will not only be a credit to their reputation, but that it will compare very favourably with any railway in the world. (Applause.) You will have noticed that the engine which brought you here to-day has been named after Mr. G. J. Morrison, who took a very great interest in the line; I think it is a fitting tribute to his memory (Hear, hear.) I thank you for the kind wishes you have expressed."

GERMAN POST OFFICES IN SHANTUNG.

In accordance with reliable information, we are enabled, says the *Tientsin Times*, to state that the numerous and irresponsible reports in the native papers and elsewhere to the effect that the recent agreement in regard to postal matters between the German Minister, Baron von Mumm and the Chinese Government will result in the withdrawal of the German post-offices from Shantung are not correct. On the contrary those at Tsinanfu and Weihsiien as well as the office at Kiomi will remain. On the other hand it has been promised to the Chinese Government that the Chinese post office at Tsintau will be retained for the exchange of mails. The agreement further contains specified regulations about the relation of both the German and Chinese postal administrations and the mutual co-operation in the forwarding of mails, parcels, etc., similar to that which obtains in the case of the French office which was concluded some few years ago.

THE ISSUE OF STANDARD SILVER CURRENCY.

Following is an Imperial Decree of Nov. 19, translated for the *N. C. Daily News*:—We have a memorial from the Commissioners on Finance concerning the proposed issue of a standard silver currency of uniform weights, fineness and touch, and also a copy of the proposed rules and regulations for the guidance of the Mints in the provinces. The memorialists further state that the silver dollars and subsidiary coins struck in the provincial mints were turned out to meet certain financial contingencies affecting said provinces at the time and therefore such silver money cannot be taken as standard legal tender. The memorialists now recommend the minting of a standard silver coinage of three denominations, such as one-tael pieces, half-tael, or five-mace pieces, two-mace and one-mace pieces, of the Government legal "K'up'ing" (Treasury, or Board of Revenue) standard weight and fine ass. The new currency, continue the memorialists, can be used in conjunction with the silver coins and copper cash formerly minted in the provinces and now in circulation throughout the country. As the questions of financial reform and a standard currency is one of the most important before us, we hereby command the Board of Revenue to take the rules and regulations which have been presented to us for approval and send instructions without delay to the Chihli, Kiangsu, Hupeh, and Kuangtung provincial mints to coin silver currency at once in accordance therewith. This new silver currency shall in the future be accepted and used as legal tender in all transactions, government as well as private. Whatever other matters that may be required to be dealt with that have not been touched upon by the memorialists are to be reported to us for approval by the said Board as occasion requires.

THE FLOOD OF COPPER CURRENCY.

The Viceroy of Liangjiang, H. E. Chow Fu, is in receipt of instructions from the Board of Revenue, relative to the limiting the daily output of ten-cash copper pieces from the several provincial mints. According to the new rules, Kiangnan province is allowed to turn out each day not over 1,000,000 of such coins, which would place the Viceroy in an embarrassing position. It seems that the indebtedness incurred by the mint at Nanking in the past amounts to Tls. 4,000,000; at the same time, the Council of Army Organisation has allotted to the Kiaoguan province the sum of Tls. 800,000, to be raised annually, as its share of the expenses in organising the new Army of China. The various measures being introduced in connection with the scheme of reform, too, consume enormous sums of money. All these items are a fearful drain on the provincial treasury, which is, however, at present replenished by the profits derived from the copper cash mint. In case, therefore, the output be limited to 1,000,000 pieces per diem, the profits would be greatly reduced, rendering the meeting of the provincial expenditures a matter of grave difficulty. The Viceroy, therefore, proposes to protest against the new Board rule, and should his protest be of no avail, he will have to arrange to evade in some way the rule in question.—*Nanfangpao*.

RAILWAY PROFITS IN CHINA.

The Tientsin-Shanhaikuan Railway has been reaping golden harvests. Last year, after paying off the interest on the British bonds and redeeming those, the numbers of which came out in the annual drawing, and after defraying the running expenses, and appropriating a large sum as a loan for the construction of the Peking-Kalgan Railway, there was left a net profit of over Tls. 1,200,000. It is reported that out of this sum, Tls. 800,000 will be presented to their Majesties to replenish the Privy Purse; Tls. 200,000 will be set apart for the Peiyang administration; H. E. Hu Yu-fen, Administrator of Northern Railways, will receive Tls. 100,000; and the remaining lakh or so will be divided as a bonus among the employés, in proportion to their monthly salaries.—*Nanfangpao*.

COMMERCIAL.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 30th Nov.—The downward tendency continues, business being dull.

Shekloong,	No. 1, White.....	\$8.85 to \$8.90 per cwt.
Do.	2, White.....	7.35 to 7.40 "
Do.	1, Brown.....	6.55 to 6.70 "
Do.	2, Brown.....	5.95 to 6.00 "
Swatow,	No. 1, White.....	8.45 to 8.50 "
Do.	2, White.....	7.25 to 7.30 "
Do.	1, Brown.....	6.30 to 6.35 "
Do.	2, Brown.....	5.75 to 5.80 "
Foochow Sugar Candy.....	11.00 to 11.05 "	
Shekloong	10.05 to 10.10 "

RICE.

Messrs. Wm. G. Hale & Co.'s Circular, dated Saigon 17th November, 1905, states:—Stocks of old crop are almost exhausted, and we may now as well not talk any more about it, as what is left of it—with the exception of 3/4,000 tons which are strongly held and for which high prices are demanded—is of a very inferior grade and unfit for export as white rice. As for our new crop we have every reason to believe now that it will turn out to be a good one. Some transactions have already been concluded for March to April shipment. The last week has been very quiet, business having been paraysled by exchange advancing.

We quote for November delivery.

	per picul
No. 2 White sifted (trié) steam milled (round)	*
No. 2 White unsifted (ordinaire) steam milled (round)	\$3.40
5% Cargo steam milled (round)	83.10
10% Cargo steam milled (round)	\$3.00
20% Cargo steam milled (round)	\$2.90

* Prices according to terms and conditions.

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, 30th November.

Quotations are:—Allow'ce net to 1 catty.

Malwa New	\$1020	to —	per picul.
Malwa Old	\$1050	to —	do.
Malwa Older	\$1100	to —	do.
Malwa V. Old.....	\$1180	to —	do.
Persian fine quality	\$1150	to —	do.
Persian extra fine.....	\$1200	to —	do.
Patna New	\$932	to —	per chest.
Patna Old	\$910	to —	do.
Benares New	\$910	to —	do.
Benares Old	\$895	to —	do.

COAL.

Messrs. Hughes and Hough, in their Coal Report of Nov. 30th, state that 20 steamers are expected at Hongkong with a total of 68,800 tons of coal. Since November 17th 13 steamers have arrived with a total of 52,300 tons of coal. Quotations:—

Cardiff.....	\$15.00	\$16.00 ex-ship, nominal.
Australian	\$10.00	\$11.00 ex-ship, steady.
Yubari Lump	\$12.00	nominal.
Miki Lump	\$11.00	\$12.00 steady.
Moji Lump.....	\$10.00	\$11.00 ex-ship steady.
Akaike Lump.....	\$10.50	\$10.75 steady
Bengal.....	\$ 8.75	\$ 9.25 steady.

YARN.

Mr. Eduljee, in his Report, dated Hongkong 1st December, says:—The return of demand appears to be as far off as ever, and what with increasing stocks, continued dullness of Shanghai, tightness of money amongst the natives, and impatience of holders to realize in a rising exchange, the market is passing through a period of intense depression. In previous years a good demand has followed closely on the completion of harvesting, but this year it is entirely absent; and on comparing the off-takes at even date for the last year we find that the number of bales now going into consumption is about half the quantity previously taken. Values show a depreciation of \$2 to \$5 per bale and further heavy drop in prices was generally expected. At the close the boom in American cotton, recently wired by Reuter, has had the effect of rallying the market by restoring confidence amongst both importers and dealers, and we hope to be able to make a comparatively better report next mail. Bombay is reported steady.

Sales during the fortnight aggregate 3,925 bales, arrivals 9,799 bales, and estimated unsold stock 80,000 bales.

Local Manufacture:—Continues quiet.

Japanese Yarn:—No business is reported.

Raw Cotton:—A drop of \$1 per picul in prices has induced a small business in Indian descriptions. Sales 395 bales superfine Bengals at \$22 to \$24. In China kinds sales of 250 bales Thoongchow at \$24 are reported. Unsold stock

3,350 bales Indian and 800 bales China. Quotas are Bengal \$20 to \$23 and China \$23 to \$25.

Exchange on India shows another advance of 3 points during the interval and closes strong to-day at Rs. 155½ for T/T and Rs. 155 for Post. On Shanghai 71½ and on Yokohama 101½.

The undernoted business in imported and local spinnings reported from Shanghai during the fortnight ended the 25th ultimo, viz:—

Indian:—Market stagnant, demand desultory, and prices weak and irregular, in some cases showing a decline of 4 to 5 taels. Total sales 3,518 bales and estimated unsold stock 80,000 bales.

Japanese:—Somewhat weaker, but in steady demand. Sales 1,500 bales on the basis of Tls. 90½ to 97 for No. 16s and Tls. 100 to \$105 for No. 20s.

Local:—No fresh business is reported, the Mills having sold well forward.

PIECE GOODS.

Messrs. Noel, Murray & Co.'s Report on the Shanghai Piece Goods Trade, dated Shanghai, 23rd November, 1905, states:—Very meagre and for the most part conflicting accounts have come in of the recent rioting and pillage at Vladivostock. Everything appears to be quiet now, and it is improbable the real truth will ever be allowed to leak out. In spite of the assurance that the Chinese quarters had escaped, a big claim is reported to have been preferred against the Russian Government for damage done to native property there, so it is difficult to know what to think or believe. It looks more and more certain

that a long time must elapse before the evacuation of Manchuria is completed, and until that is actually consummated there will always be that element of danger, and a standing menace to the peace and good order of the country. A very notable and welcome feature of this week has been the formal opening of the first section of the Shanghai-Nanking Railway. The builders are pushing it on rapidly and well, and it should not be many months now before Soochow is reached. Trade continues in an absolutely moribund condition. There is nothing doing in spot cargo, clearances are almost at a standstill, and forward transactions are the exception, not the rule, and on the veriest retail scale. It is becoming more and more evident every day that the trade has been vastly overdone. For the past few years the Piece Goods Trade in China has been run altogether on speculative lines, and for a time it has certainly paid the operators. The rapid developments they were looking for and anticipating here failed to come about however.

Consumption has not increased to the extent expected and the consequence is a greatly overstocked market here and glutted markets in the interior. In addition exchange has misled the large majority, and the financial situation is critical in the extreme, so much so that a sudden panic would have most disastrous results. Foreign firms have allowed themselves to be quite led astray by the sanguineness of the native operators, and have been only too willing to book orders, though for the most part not buying for their own account. Although a good proportion of the exchange against forward contracts may have been settled on a lower basis there are always some who take current rates, and these are now in a position to undersell their competitors. Thus the market will become complicated and irregular, and the situation fraught with danger. There is fortunately one safety valve that looks as though it might be of some effective use, and that is the price of cotton. It was with some concern that holders of cotton goods here have watched the declining tendency, the public telegram yesterday giving the Liverpool quotation as 5.78d for Mid. American. For some reason, not explained as yet, the New York market advanced to 11.81 gold for July, a sudden rise of sixty points. Liverpool as once responded, and private wires to-day advise an immediate jump to 6.08d. The market is excited, and business in Manchester is at a standstill. Prices there have kept very firm, although the public telegrams continue to put the quotations for staple makes up and down with price of the raw material. In one instance mentioned to us to-day a certain white shirting was quoted two shillings over its September offering price, and for May, June, July delivery Egyptian Cotton was reported down to 8½d, but may be affected by the advance in the American staple. Piece Goods.—The market remains in the same state as described last week. If any re-sales have taken place they are too small or unimportant to be noticed. A few three-yard and 3½ yard drills have been taken from second hands for Hankow at a decline of three mace per piece. At the Ewo Auction yesterday prices were in favour of the buyers throughout, as might have

been expected with the rising exchange, and the wonder is they were not more so—one chop of 12lb. Grey Shirtings and one chop of heavy White Shirtings being the only ones that declined over a mace. An attempt to hold the Yuen Fong sale was again a failure, as far as the cotton goods were concerned, the woollens being more or less sacrificed to outsiders in order to try and start the ball rolling. We understand an endeavour will be made again to-morrow. A few small indents for dyed and printed fancy goods represent all that has been done in the private market.

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

Per steamer Calchas, sailed on 21st November. For Odessa:—100 bales galangal, 100 cases aniseed. For Genoa:—107 bales canes, 230 packages merchandise. For Marseilles:—40 bales canes, 75 bales human hair, 100 cases cassia. For Marseilles or Havre:—455 rolls matting, 360 bales canes, 125 bales cassia, 250 cases cassia. For Bordeaux:—362 rolls matting. For Liverpool:—118 packages sundries.

Per P. & O. steamer Sunda, sailed on 24th Nov. For Liverpool:—650 bales hemp. For Glasgow:—12 cases chinaware. For Marseilles:—150 bales hemp, 2 cases hats, 3 bales saguran. For Gibraltar:—1 case curios. For London:—1,349 bales hemp, 151 bales canes, 2 cases silks, 34 cases woodware, 82 cases chinaware, 40 rolls mats, 3 cases curios, &c., 138 packages tea, 23 boxes camphor, 125 casks preserves, 8 cases empty iron flasks.

Per M. M. Co's steamer Tourane, sailed on 28th November. For Marseilles:—160 bales raw silk, 600 bales waste silk, 6 cases silk piece goods, 29 packages human hair, 50 cases staranised, 6 cases ylang ylang oil, 3 cases hats, 1 case cigars, 8 packages sundries. For Lyons:—331 bales raw silk. For Milan:—10 bales raw silk. For Valencia:—38 packages tea. For Constantinople:—30 bales waste silk. For Diego Suarez:—11 cases provisions.

SHARE REPORTS.

HONGKONG, 1st December, 1905.—Although we have no improvement to report in rates, a slightly better tone has been apparent in the market during the week under review. An impression seems to be gaining ground, among holders of stocks, that the recent steady rise in sterling exchange is not merely a flash in the pan, but has come to stay, at any rate for some time. The hasty rush to realize stocks for the sake of remitting money home has consequently been, to a certain extent, checked, and holders seem to be more content to wait for a better opportunity of realizing than the present affords. Ex. on London T.T. 2/1.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghaik, with shares still in the market and no buyers, have failed to maintain their position and sales have been effected at \$875, at which a few odd lots have changed hands. A small demand at that rate however exists at time of closing without meeting with a response. Nationals unchanged and without business.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Unions are procurable in small lots at \$750, but without sales. In Cantons we have nothing to report. China Traders have been placed during the week at \$88, \$88½ and \$89, closing firm at the last rate. North Chinas have ruled quiet with small sales at Tls. 92½. Yangtzes without any local business are quoted lower in Shanghai at \$170.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkongs have changed hands at \$335 and sales of Chinas are reported at \$86.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macaos have declined to \$25½ after small sales at that. Indos have ruled neglected at \$95. Douglasses are enquired for at \$35 without bringing any shares in the market.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars remain without business if we except a few transactions in shares carried forward over the settlements at various rates, which would give no indication of the market. At time of closing a few shares are obtainable at \$215 and probably a little lower rate would be accepted. Luscnas have changed hands at \$21, \$23 and \$25, closing with buyers at the last rate.

MINING.—Nothing to report under this heading.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have further declined to \$165 with some sales at that rate.

Kowloon Wharves have been in a steady demand at \$106 without bringing any shares on the market. Farnhams are quoted in Shanghai at Tls. 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ buyers.

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands have been placed in small lots at \$126, and close with sellers at that rate. Hongkong Hotels have declined to \$149, and Humphreys to \$12 $\frac{1}{2}$ with sales.

COTTON MILLS.—Ewos have advanced to Tls. 65 with buyers; other stocks under this heading remain unchanged.

MISCELLANEOUS.—China Providents have been negotiated at the reduced rate of \$9.25. Green Islands at \$28 $\frac{1}{2}$, and Watsons at \$12 $\frac{1}{2}$ ex dividend, the last named closing with further sellers at \$12 $\frac{1}{2}$, and buyers at \$12.

Closing quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATION.
Alhambra Banks—	\$200	\$100, buyers
Hongkong & S'hai.	\$125	\$875, sales & buy. London, £93. 10s.
National B. of China	£5	\$88, buyers
Bell's Asbestos E. A...	12s. 6d.	\$7
China-Borneo Co.....	\$12	\$10, sellers
China Light & P. Co.	\$10	\$9 $\frac{1}{2}$, sellers
China Provident	\$10	\$9 $\frac{1}{2}$
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo.....	Tls. 50	Tls. 65, buyers
Hongkong	\$10	\$14
International	Tls. 75	Tls. 44
Laou Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 60
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 250
Dairy Farm	\$6	\$16, sellers
Docks & Wharves—		
Farnham, B. & Co... H. & K. Wharf & G. H. & W. Dock	Tls. 100	Tls. 137
New Amoy Dock...	\$50	\$106, buyers
S'hai & H. Wharf...	Tls. 100	\$165, sellers
Fenwick & Co., Geo...	\$25	\$17
G. Island Cement ...	\$10	\$24 $\frac{1}{2}$
Hongkong & C. Gas...	£10	\$28 $\frac{1}{2}$
Hongkong Electric...	\$10	\$175, buyers
Do. New	\$10	\$14 $\frac{1}{2}$
H. H. L. Tramways...	\$100	\$215
Hongkong Hotel Co...	\$50	\$149, sales
Hongkong Ice Co....	\$25	\$235
Hongkong Rope Co...	\$50	\$152
H'kong S. Waterboat Insurances—	\$10	\$13
Canton	\$50	\$330, sellers
China Fire.....	\$20	\$87
China Traders	\$25	\$59, buyers
Hongkong Fire.....	\$50	\$835, sale & sels.
North China.....	£5	Tls. 92 $\frac{1}{2}$, sellers
Union	\$100	\$750, sellers
Yangtsze	\$60	\$170
Land and Buildings—		
H'kong Land Invest.	\$100	\$126, sellers
Humphreys' Estate	\$10	\$12 $\frac{1}{2}$, sales & sel.
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$40, buyers
Shanghai Land.....	Tls. 50	Tls. 122
WestPoint Building	\$50	\$55, sellers
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 250	\$490
Raubs.....	18/10	\$3 $\frac{1}{2}$
Philippine Co.	\$10	\$5, buyers
Refineries—		
China Sugar	\$100	\$215, sellers
Luzon Sugar.....	\$100	\$25, buyers
Steamship Companies		
China and Manila...	\$25	\$20, sellers
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$35, buyers
H., Canton & M. ...	\$15	\$25 $\frac{1}{2}$, sellers
Indo-China S.N. Co.	£10	\$95, sellers
Shell Transport Co.	£1	258.
Do. Preference...	£10	£8. 10s.
Star Ferry	\$10	\$32, buyers
Do. New.....	\$5	\$23
Shanghai & H. Dyeing	\$50	\$50
South China M. Post.	\$25	\$20, sellers
Steam Laundry Co....	\$5	\$7 $\frac{1}{2}$
Do.	\$5	\$7
Stores & Dispensaries.		
Campbell, M. & Co.	\$10	\$36
Powell & Co., Wm.	\$10	\$11, buyers
Watkins.....	\$10	\$6 $\frac{1}{2}$, sellers
Watson & Co., A. S....	\$10	\$12, x.d.
United Asbestos	\$4	\$9
Do. Founders	\$10	\$160

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co., of Shanghai, in their Share Report for the week ending the 23rd Nov. 1905, state:—There has been a considerable business done since our last report in Maatschappij, etc., in Lankat and Farnham, Boyd Shares, apu

we have to report a decline in both stocks. The rise in exchange, the difficulty of obtaining financial facilities, and the heavy settlement for December, have all tended to weaken our local share market. The T.T. Rate on London to-day is 2/11. Banks.—H. and S. Bank. No Business reported. The Hongkong quotation is \$905 sellers, and the latest London quotation is £93 10s. Marine and Fire Insurance.—North Chinas. A few transactions have taken place at Tls. 92 $\frac{1}{2}$ for cash, followed by a sale at Tls. 95; the market is steady. Yangtsze Insurance. There are sellers at \$170. Shipping.—Indo-Chinas. At the beginning of the week shares changed hands at Tls. 71 for Dec. and improved to Tls. 72; Tls. 75 was recorded for March. The rise seems to have been purely speculative, and shares since have fallen to Tls. 69 for December and Tls. 74 for March. There are sellers at quotations. Shanghai Tugs. There are sales of ordinary shares at Tls. 55 and preference shares at Tls. 48. Docks and Wharves.—S. C. Farnham, Boyd. Our market opened at Tls. 141 cash and 143 for December; Tls. 147 $\frac{1}{2}$ for March, but a heavy lot of shares having been placed on the market the rate has steadily declined Tl. 1 every day, and the closing rates are Tls. 138 for November and December, and Tls. 143 for March, at which rates shares can be obtained. S. and H. Wharf Co. We have to chronicle a decline in this stock. Tls. 197 $\frac{1}{2}$ for cash was the rate ruling at the commencement of the week, to be followed by Tls. 195 cash and Nov. and Tls. 202 $\frac{1}{2}$ March; continued selling has brought the price to Tls. 190 cash and Tls. 195 for November and December, and Tls. 200 for March. Shares can be obtained at quotations. Sugars.—No business reported. Mining.—A single transaction in Chinese Engineering and Mining Co. bearer's shares is reported at Tls. 840. Weihaiwei Golds were sold during the week at \$13, the market closing with sellers at this rate. Land.—Shanghai Lands have been placed at Tls. 122. No other business reported. Industrial.—Cottons. We hear of an unreported sale of Ewos at Tls. 59. Internationals. There are sales at Tls. 44. Laou Kung Mows remain steady at Tls. 60. Shanghai Gases have been placed at Tls. 126, and there are further buyers at this price. Shanghai Paper and Pulps. There are sellers at Tls. 151 $\frac{1}{2}$, Maatschappij, etc., in Langkata. We have to record a special decline in this stock, which to some extent is unaccountable as the final dividend of 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. declared last week appeared to give general satisfaction. The rate at the commencement of the week was Tls. 235 and 240 for cash, and December at Tls. 247 $\frac{1}{2}$; at this price large selling orders came into the market, and on the following day Tls. 235 for November was recorded, but the forward rate has declined to Tls. 237 $\frac{1}{2}$. Tls. 247 and 250 was paid for March. On the 20th a further decline took place and shares changed hands at Tls. 232 $\frac{1}{2}$ for November and December; and the March rate became Tls. 245. On the 21st the only transaction recorded was Tls. 227 $\frac{1}{2}$ for November. Yesterday the price was driven by persistent selling at Tls. 222 $\frac{1}{2}$ for November, Tls. 225 and 220 for December, Tls. 225 for January, add Tls. 230 for March; at the close lower rates prevail and shares can be had for December at Tls. 217 $\frac{1}{2}$. Shanghai Waterworks. There are no transactions to report, but a call of £5 on the new shares is due next month and business is sure to result. We hear of no sales and quote the nominal rate at Tls. 469. Anglo-German Brewery. There are sellers at \$118. Stores and Hotels.—Oriental Hotel (newshares) have changed hands at Tls. 7 $\frac{1}{2}$. There are buyers of Weeks Company Shares at \$20. Astor House Hotel have been dealt in at \$28 sellers, and there are buyers at \$27. Lane, Crawford & Company have been dealt in at \$15 $\frac{1}{2}$ cum. div. Miscellaneous.—Horse Bazaars have sellers at Tls. 72 $\frac{1}{2}$. Telephones have changed hands at Tls. 56 $\frac{1}{2}$ and there are further sellers. Loans and Debentures.—Shanghai Municipal 5 per cent. have been placed at Tls. 86 and the whole of the remainder of this issue can be taken at this figure. Municipal 6 per cent. A small lot was dealt in at Tls. 98, but at this price there are large lots for sale. This is accounted for by the rise in exchange and we predict that considerably lower rates will be accepted. Shanghai Land 6 per cent. The same applies equally to this stock. There is a good quantity for sale on the market. Waterworks debentures. The above equally applies to this stock. Astor House 8 per cent. changed hands at Tls. 105 and there are further sellers.

ON LONDON.—

Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight 2/1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Credits, at 4 months' sight 2/1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight 2/1 $\frac{1}{2}$

ON PARIS.—

Bank Bills, on demand 262 $\frac{1}{2}$
Credits 4 months' sight 266 $\frac{1}{2}$

ON GERMANY.—

On demand 21 3 $\frac{1}{2}$

ON NEW YORK.—

Bank Bills, on demand 50 $\frac{1}{2}$
Credits, 60 days' sight 51 $\frac{1}{2}$

ON BOMBAY.—

Telegraphic Transfer 155 $\frac{1}{2}$
Bank, on demand 156

ON CALCUTTA.—

Telegraphic Transfer 155 $\frac{1}{2}$
Bank, on demand 156

ON HANGSHAI.—

Bank, at sight 71 $\frac{1}{2}$
Private, 30 days' sight 72 $\frac{1}{2}$

ON YOKOHAMA.—

On demand 101 $\frac{1}{2}$

ON MANILA.—

On demand 102 $\frac{1}{2}$

ON SINGAPORE.—

On demand 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. pm.

ON BATAVIA.—

On demand 125 $\frac{1}{2}$

ON HAIPHONG.—

On demand 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.p.m.

ON SAIGON.—

On demand 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.p.m.

ON BANGKOK.—

On demand 59

SEVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate \$9.60

GOLD LEAF, 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ fine, per tael \$50.60

BAR SILVER, per oz 30 $\frac{1}{2}$

TONNAGE.

HONGKONG, 1st December.—There is very little demand for tonnage, and freights are weaker all round. From Saigon outwards, practically nothing doing, the old crop being exhausted, and the new grain is not ready for shipment before the beginning of January. From North Coast Java to this, two steamers have been closed at 21 $\frac{1}{2}$ cents for dry sugar; to Japan, no inquiry. Coal freights.—From Mororan to this, \$1.80 has been paid. From Moji to this, \$1.40 per ton; to Singapore, \$1.50 per ton. From Hongay to Hongkong, \$1.35 per ton last; to Swatow, \$1.50.

The following are the settlements:—

Hermann Menzell—German steamer, 1,035 tons, Newchwaning to Amoy (part cargo), 26 cents per picul.

Elita Nossack—German steamer, 1,161 tons, Chinkiang to Canton, \$8,000 lump sum.

Wik—German steamer, 1,891 tons, Mororan to Hongkong, \$1.80 per ton.

Sirocco—British steamer, 2,349 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$1.40 per ton.

Calleope—British steamer, 2,498 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$1.40 per ton.

Oceano—British steamer, 1,739 tons, Hongay to Hongkong, \$1.35 per ton.

Ocerno—British steamer, 1,739 tons, Hongay to Swatow, \$1.50 per ton.

Loyal—German steamer, 1,237 tons, two ports North Coast Java to Hongkong, 22 $\frac{1}{2}$ cents per picul.

Manningtry—British steamer, 1,828 tons, 3/4 ports North Coast Java to Hongkong, 22 $\frac{1}{2}$ cents and 25 cents per picul.

FREIGHT.

Messrs. Wheelock & Co.'s Market Report dated Shanghai 23rd Nov. 1905, states:—We report no change since our last in our Homeward Freight Market. Coastwise.—The lack of tonnage, owing to several steamers being kept in Vladivostock on account of the riots which prevented their discharging, has kept this market fairly firm. Coal rates still remain between \$1.50 and \$1.60, and we do not think they will go any higher, but rather the reverse. The River trade is slightly better, but as yet the regular liners can more than fill requirements, and outside steamers have a very poor chance. Time charterers seemed to have absolutely left the market and a great many of their steamers are being re-delivered.

From Hankow per Conference Steamers.—To London and Northern Continental ports 46/- per ton of 40 c. ft. plus river freight. To Genoa, Marseilles or Havre 41/6 per ton of 40 c. ft. plus river freight. To New York (via Suez) 32/- per ton of 40 c. ft. plus river freight. To New York (overland):—Tea G. \$1 $\frac{1}{2}$ cents per lb. gross, plus river freight. To Shanghai:—Tea and General Cargo Taels 1.80 per ton weight or measurement.

EXCHANGE.

FRIDAY, 1st December.

ON LONDON.—

Telegraphic Transfer 2/1
Bank Bills, on demand 2/1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Bank Bills, at 3

SHIPPING.**ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.**November—**ARRIVALS.**

27, America Maru, Jap. str., from S. Francisco.
 27, Bainbridge, U.S. torp.-boat, from Manila.
 27, Barry, U.S. torpedo-boat, from Manila.
 27, Broholm, Dutch str., from Manila.
 27, Chunsang, British str., from Chinkiang.
 27, Hongwan I, British str., from Straits.
 27, Indravelli, British str., from Durban.
 27, Keongwai, German str., from Bangkok.
 27, Kohsichang, German str., from Bangkok.
 27, Loongsang, British str., from Manila.
 27, Lucia Vittoria, Ital. str., from K'chauwan.
 27, Tourane, French str., from Yokohama.
 27, Trieste, Austrian str., from Shanghai.
 27, Tsinan, British str., from Kuchinotzu.
 27, Zafiro, British str., from Manila.
 28, Esang, British str., from Canton.
 28, Fooshing, British str., from Shanghai.
 28, Haitan, British str., from Coast Ports.
 28, Volute, British str., from Susu.
 28, Kampot, French str., from K'chauwan.
 28, Lightning, British str., from Calcutta.
 28, Loongmoon, German str., from Canton.
 28, Manningty, British str., from Moji.
 28, Oanfa, British str., from Liverpool.
 28, Rio Lima, Portuguese g.-bt., from Macao.
 28, Tungshing, British str., from Canton.
 28, Germania, German str., from Chinkiang.
 29, Armand Behic, Fr. str., from Marseilles.
 29, Benmohr, British str., from Shanghai.
 29, C. Diederichsen, Ger. str., from Haiphong.
 29, Daijin Maru, Japanese str., from Tamshui.
 29, Eastern, British str., from Kobe.
 29, Elita Nossack, German str., from Canton.
 29, Glenfarg, British str., from Shanghai.
 29, Helene, German str., from Canton.
 29, Ithaka, German str., from Canton.
 29, Kwongsang, British str., from Shanghai.
 29, Michael Jebben, German str., from Chefoo.
 29, Sungkiau, British str., from Cebu.
 29, Asama, British str., from New York.
 29, Toonan, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 30, Bengal, British str., from Shanghai.
 30, Chihli, British str., from Tientsin
 3, Derwent, British str., from Saigon.
 3, Loosok, German str., from Bangkok.
 30, Thyra, Norwegian str., from Kuchinotzu.

November—**DEPARTURES.**

25, Schuykill, British str., for New York.
 27, Chunsang, British str., for Canton.
 27, Kwangtab, Chinese str., for Canton.
 27, Meefoo, Chinese str., for Canton.
 28, Barry, U.S. torpedo boat, for Canton.
 28, Chowfa, German str., for Bangkok.
 28, Haimun, British str., for Coast Ports.
 28, Ichang, British str., for Canton.
 28, J. Diederichsen, Ger. str., for Haiphong.
 28, Kutsang, British str., for Calcutta.
 28, Phuyen, French str., for Foochow.
 28, Shaohsing, British str., for Canton.
 28, Taming, British str., for Manila.
 28, Tourane, French str., for Europe.
 29, Ataka, British str., for Tamsui.
 29, Callao, U.S. gunboat, for Canton.
 29, Eidsvold, British str., for Singapore.
 29, Esang, British str., for Shanghai.
 29, Germania, German str., for Canton.
 29, Hongwan I, British str., for Amoy.
 29, Promise, Norwegian str., for Anping.
 29, Signal, German str., for Swatow.
 22, Tartar, British str., for Vancouver.
 29, Tsinan, British str., for Australia.
 30, Asama, British str., for Shanghai.
 30, Benmohr, British str., for Singapore.
 30, Dragoman, British str., for Calcutta.
 30, Haitan, British str., for Coast Ports.
 30, Helene, German str., for Swatow.
 30, Kwongsang, British str., for Canton.
 30, Loongmoon, German str., for Shanghai.
 30, Trieste, Austrian str., for Trieste.
 30, Triumph, German str., for Shanghai.
 30, Tungshing, British str., for Ningpo.
 30, Volute, British str., for Shanghai.
 30, Wongafell, British str., for Newcastle.

PASSENGER LIST.**ARRIVED.**

Per Prinz Heinrich, for Hongkong from Hamburg, Miss Lily Cohen and Capt. Brehmer; from Southampton, Misses A. Laidler, M. Ross, M. Barnett, G. Wells, N. Henderson, P. Latimer, Rev. W. B. Paton, Mr. Allan Jones, Mrs. A. Stupersky, Mr. T. H. Gardiner, Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Bryan, Mrs. F. Wheeler and children;

from Genoa, Mr. R. Petrich, Mr. and Mrs. Kiene, Mr. and Mrs. M. Steger, Navy Paymaster Rust, Miss C. Faeherling, Miss H. Callesien, Mr. and Mrs. Heinr. Giess, Miss Emma Wirth, Mr. Frdr. Schneider: from Colombo, Bro. Canda and Rev. Chamberlain; from Singapore, Mrs. Conolly, Messrs. N. E. Colvin, A. Meyboom, P. Katenkamp, G. F. Schaeffer and T. Lazarus.

Per Sunda, from Yokohama for Hongkong, Mrs. Bowden; for Colombo, Mrs. S. W. Yale, from Marseilles, Mrs. and 2 Misses Goddard; Mrs. C. W. Cooper; for London, Mr. and Mrs. F. Thomas: from Shanghai for Hongkong, Mr. and Mrs. Phelps and infant, Major Venables; for Marseilles, Master and Miss Gye, Mr. R. E. Nelson, Dr. Moorhead, Mr. O. E. Leroy, Mr. and Mrs. Jacquet and 2 children; for London, Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Butler, Miss Butler, Mr. R. Cousins, Mr. J. Lang and Mrs. Price and child; from Foochow for Hongkong, Mr. R. Greig; for London, Mr. R. Kerr.

Per Tsinan, from Kuchinotzu, Miss Tuthill, Madames Tuthill, Collins, Woolrabe, Beddome and Takeda, Messrs. Wetherspoon, Ritchie, Collins, Takeda, Kobayashi, Oweidio and Hearne.

Per America Maru, from San Francisco, Messrs. Wm. C. Brodestein, Fred. B. Chester, Mrs. C. L. Rion, Mr. W. Schurchner and Mrs. S. La Grave; from Yokohama, Messrs. T. D. McKay, T. Ozona, Mr. and Mrs. C. Hunter, Mr. and Mrs. G. N. Spencer; from Kobe, Messrs. George A. Reid, W. R. Anderson, Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Spencer; from Nagasaki, Mr. Gordon Brown, Dr. M. Kanai and Lieut. A. Wuckov; from Shanghai, Mr. C. A. da Roza, Mrs. A. A. da Roza, Miss H. Buxton, Messrs. A. H. Mancell, Yoneda, C. W. Frankel, A. M. Silva, Puddepha, Miss Maxwell, Mr. and Mrs. G. Brown, Mr. C. K. Ai, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Rample, Mr. and Mrs. Powell Johnston, Miss Dunbar and Rev. R. G. Dye.

Per Tourane, for Hongkong from Yokohama, Lieut. Ryan, Messrs. Xavier and Billiet; from Kobe, Messrs. Izard and de Yact; from Shanghai, Major Williamson, Surgeon O'Keeffe, Mr. Botter, 2 Misses Johnson, Mrs. Smith, Mr. M. Koyama, Mrs. Gameau and Mr. Isaac: for Saigon from Yokohama, Messrs. Jansen and Chabolet; from Shanghai, Mr. Ilarsout Mr. and Mrs. Nova, Messrs. Baker Juul and L. Guen: for Singapore from Yokohama, Messrs. d'Ambro, Ricalton, Osamy and Nakagawa; from Kobe, Messrs. Fuji and Murakami; from Shanghai, Miss Katagiri, Messrs. Kohari and Morijima, Consul Ottewill, Mr. Legan, Mrs. Berner, Mr. Obimari, Mrs. Osuyamo, Mrs. Lizu, Messrs. Shesidah, Edelini, Berger, Gazonall, Solomon: for Calcutta, from Shanghai, Mrs. F. Braun: for Colombo from Kobe, Messrs. Allacon, Olsen and Wellesen; from Shanghai, Mrs. Saxton and Mr. Sopher: for Aden from Yokohama, Lord Cowley, Sir Thos Vancer and Mr. East: for Port Said from Yokohama, Mrs. d'Ambro and child, 2 Misses d'Ambro and Miss Herkelge; from Shanghai, Capt. Seletzky, Mr. Kissinoff, Earl Wielopolsky, Earl Benkendorff, Messrs. Ladoosky, Zintzchenko, Krivossos and Karapchenski: for Marseilles from Yokohama, Mr. and Mrs. Ono and child, Dr. Matignon, Mr. Paysar, Capt. Dvorgitsky, Messrs. Groves, Fujishima, Tsujimura, Saito, Sugawara and Asai; from Kobe, Mr. Johaessen; from Shanghai, Messrs. Ackermann and Van der Stegen, Mr. and Mrs. Leguin, Mr. Clavier, Hon. Molynex, Capt. Brassey, Dr. Lorans, Messrs. Erzard, Espanet, Mr. and Mrs. Laporte and son, Messrs. Dreyfus, Ertand, Vidal, Guisseff, Podstarchik, Loendson, Weber, Lasserre, Thomas, Leblanc, Tainsawa, Nerny and Wieland.

Per Loongsang, from Manila, Misses Gertrude Silbore, Eva George, Annie Laurie, Beattie Young, Dorcas Dale, Alice Herbert and Kate Herbert, Mr. W. C. M. Pellet, Mr. and Mrs. Thos. F. Fitzgerald, Messrs. S. Christian, A. Dunbar, F. Furgison, H. Cardelli, A. J. Simpson, W. Christian, A. C. Neudrie, Ted. Aphlin, J. James, Porvey, Amed. Joseph, Metin, J. Rubbul, O. C. Fitzgerald, J. Wallula, Verengars, H. Goran, Mr. and Mrs. Thos. Herbert, Mrs. S. Barrel, Mrs. M. Barker, Messrs. R. M. Yoff, Allor Kerr, Willi Hendry, Mrs. Henderson, M. J. Walton, B. Lyengis, E. Veeny, J. Coffey, Fred. Green, G. Ridgway, W. Anderson, A. West, C. Horn, P. Walsh, Stewart Waltam, Walby Prodon, W. Simmons and J. Mint.

Per Zafiro, from Manila, Dr. & Mrs. Milkin, Major and Mrs. W. P. Kendall, Capt. and Mrs. Nuwell, Mr. and Mrs. Curr Bem, Lieut. C. B. Moore, Lieut. E. L. Bull, Lieut. A. J. O'Leary, Lieut. G. F. Rozell, Lieut. Chas. N. Barney, Mrs. B. Gibson, Mrs. Andrew, Miss Helena Gordon, Messrs. J. H. Langtry, C. C. Brewer, H. D. Thirkield, D. R. Gray, H. E. Partridge, C. H. Macfarlane, C. S. Virgill, E. A. Bonner, J. C. Underwood, J. Delaney, D. Papa, V. Macario and D. Moro.

Per Eastern, from Kobe for Hongkong, Capt. Ackley, Lieut. Marble and Miss Douglas; for Brisbane, Mr. J. Simon; for Sydney, Sir John See, 2 Misses See, Miss Meeks, Messrs. L. Cantlon, M. Cowper, S. Pawsey, F. A. Crago and H. Hirao.

Per Armand Behic, for Hongkong from Marseilles, Mrs. Marty, Mr. and Mrs. Gauthier, Messrs. Atagde and Gauthier; from Bombay, Messrs. Holly Keen and Witchhead; from Colombo, Mr. Lazar Lienovitch; from Singapore, Mr. C. Esdale; from Saigon, Mr. and Mrs. Hein and infant, Rev. P. Maillard, Messrs. Khai Toramas and Tanguerey: for Shanghai from Marseilles, Messrs. Keromio, Cabomet, Paterson, Mrs. Fabre, Messrs. Chenard, Riva, G. Cook, Rocca and Miss Gangain; from Colombo, Sisters Feraphine and Noemie, Messrs. S. and M. Schneider; from Singapore, Messrs. David Shapera and Tony Rosebald: for Kobe from Marseilles, Mr. C. J. Kate; from Saigon, Mr. Nagata and Mrs. Achio: for Yokohama from Marseilles, Mr. and Mrs. Horigouchi and two children, Messrs. Brunschwig, Paravicini, Blum, Shimomura, Mahy, Mizrahi and Nahoum Moise; from Port Said, Mr. and Mrs. Alti Cey; from Bombay, Messrs. Satant and Gokhali; from Colombo, Mr. F. Georges.

Per Bengal, from Shanghai for Hongkong, Mrs. Hardy, Mrs. F. Robbins, Messrs. R. M. Saker, U. J. Uldall, Consul von Varchmin, Mr. and Mrs. Hewett, Mrs. C. Brewitt Taylor, Mr. G. Harding, Lieut. Kensebeck, Messrs. A. Barnard, E. C. Nihlein, R. A. Nihlein, Dr. Hueber, Messrs. C. Ross, J. Ricketts, Inglis Smith and A. M. Roza Pereira; for Brindisi, Mr. F. C. Stafford; for Port Said, Sub-Lieut. Stetsky, Messrs. Rodichoff and Sakellary; for Marseilles, Capt. O. L. Radlohoff, Messrs. H. D. Morrison and W. H. Boyd; for London, Mr. and Mrs. S. King and 3 children, Miss Moreton, Mrs. Grant.

DEPARTED.

Per Prinz Heinrich, for Shanghai, Hon. C. W. Dickson, Messrs. W. E. Kent, Geo. T. Veitch, J. Dounenberg, Karaga, Makri and Mrs. Allen for Nagasaki, Mrs. Chuma, Miss Otoku, Messrs. Furni, Tanaka and H. O. Okamoto; for Kobe Messrs. Goto and H. Ito; for Yokohama, Mrs. P. F. Allen and Mr. Saito.

Per Tourane, from Hongkong for Saigon, Mrs. C. Boulard, Mr. and Mrs. O. Clarke; for Singapore, Mr. Kitano and Mrs. Ofuku; for Port Said, Capt. A. Novikoff; for Marseilles, Messrs. Ronald Greig, Jose Henrique Favares and Bertrand, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Johnston.

Per Tarar, for Vancouver, &c., Messrs. G. S. Schaeffer, C. C. Brower, A. J. MacPherson, the Zorrilla Musical Comedy Co., Messrs. M. B. Garber and H. Graham, Messrs. C. S. Virgil, R. Yoneda, Mrs. J. E. Findley, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Carter, Mr. F. Toutino, Mr. and Mrs. P. Pier.

Per Armand Behic, for Shanghai, Messrs. H. W. Lo ker, Redfern, Rev. Joseph Pillot, Messrs. Rasch, K. Iwao, K. Shimizu, Antorira Mose, Mrs. Ramirez, Messrs. E. S. Joseph, Stubbe, Mrs. Oldo, Messrs. M. Kinoshit, T. Ohori and Andreas Baumann; for Kobe, Messrs. J. J. de Gast, S. Matsuno and T. Honjo.

Per Eastern, for Australia, &c., Mr. M. P. Beattie, Lieut. Mrs. and Miss Borges, Messrs. J. Bradshaw, F. M. Canhoto, L. Cantlon, Mrs. Chee and child, Mr. A. Comper, Mrs. Cook, Mr. F. A. Crago, Dr. A. A. Ferreira, Mr. J. Fonseca, Dr. A. P. Gomes, Messrs. K. Hirao, A. Hollinworth, Misses S. and W. B. Johnson, Messrs. MacFarlane, J. Matha, Miss Meeks, Messrs. J. S. Park, Partidge, S. Pawsey, Mrs. J. M. Smith, Mr. J. Simon, Sir John See, Miss R. See, Miss L. See and Mrs. Woodley.

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